



# COALITION FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE

107 SE WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 239 • PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PHONE: 503.294.2889 • FAX: 503.225.0333 • WWW.CLFFUTURE.ORG

December 16, 2010

Multnomah County Commissioners  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd Ste 600  
Portland, OR 97214-3588

Dear County Commissioners,

On behalf of Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF), we are writing to express our support for the James Beard Public Market and its location at the Morrison Bridgehead site. The Public Market has the potential to be an outstanding community asset. Redevelopment of the bridgehead site for creation of the Public Market represents a unique opportunity for the County and our entire region.

CLF is a partnership of 100 diverse organizations working together for healthy and sustainable communities in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. CLF has been actively involved in regional efforts to protect and improve livability in our communities since 1994, and we have made a lasting impact on the health of our communities. However, the exceptional quality of life for which our region is known is not shared by all who live here, especially members of low-income communities and communities of color.

Development of a robust regional food system offers the promise to enhance regional livability in a number of ways, including addressing disparities. The Public Market will leverage and augment other efforts to expand our burgeoning regional food system, while also serving as a cornerstone of the system itself. It will help support local, sustainable food production, processing, and distribution strategies that contribute to the local economy and help increase access to healthful and affordable foods. It's preliminary work with Hacienda CDC and Mercy Corps NW to incubate existing minority-owned and ethnic food businesses, for example, demonstrates its commitment to ensuring that all communities will benefit from the market.

We strongly urge you to advance the Public Market's proposal for the Morrison Bridgehead site. If we can provide any additional information about our support of the project, please do not hesitate to contact us at 503-294-2889.

Sincerely,

Jill Fuglister & Ron Carley  
Co-Directors