

EARL BLUMENAUER
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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TRADE

SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3703

January 28, 2011

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
510 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Members of the Multnomah County Commission:

I write to once more lend my support of the proposal from the James Beard Public Market to acquire and develop the Morrison Bridge Property for a year-round public market.

In November of 2009, I mentioned that a downtown public market is part of Portland's heritage; that the revitalization of the Central City in the past two decades has increased the demand for fresh, locally available food year-round; and that far from diminishing the prospects of the city's numerous farmers markets, a public market would provide a reliable and year-round outlet for the growing number of small scale farms and food processors in the metropolitan region.

Now, EcoNorthwest's recent economic analysis of a public market makes the case for this proposal even stronger, concluding that a public market would create a mix of 247 full, part-time, and seasonal jobs, and have indirect impacts totaling \$11.7 million a year in economic output and an additional 101 jobs – both welcome additions to the region's struggling economy. Simply put, a year-round public market will augment not only our burgeoning local food industry, but add to our region's employment base, tourist attractions, health, sustainability, and pride.

I continue to believe that the Morrison Bridgehead provides the ideal location for the James Beard Public Market and urge you to give this proposal due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress