



Serving Oregon and
Clark County, Washington

To eliminate hunger and its root causes ... because no one should be hungry.

January 31, 2011

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

Re: James Beard Public Market

Dear Members of the Multnomah County Commission,

We write to you in support of the educational opportunities associated with the proposal from the James Beard Public Market to acquire and develop the Morrison Bridgehead Property for a year-round public market.

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes ... *because no one should be hungry*. We believe everyone should have ready access to an ample, nutritious, affordable and appropriate food supply through traditional, nonemergency channels. We distribute donated food through a statewide network of 20 regional food banks and 947 partner agencies serving Oregon and Clark County, Wash. OFB also works to eliminate the root causes of hunger through public education, community food systems organizing and advocacy.

At Oregon Food Bank, our nutrition and garden education programming helps people living with low incomes do more with scarce resources and promote their family's health and well-being. This value on education is clearly one shared by the James Beard Public Market. Both organizations acknowledge the cultural trend away from home cooking and toward the consumption of fast foods and convenience foods that can lead to obesity and other chronic health conditions. As a remedy, both support the goal of providing education in basic cooking skills and the preparation of fresh foods to their constituents.

Oregon Food Bank looks forward to seeing the community collaborations and programming that will surely result from creation of the demonstration/teaching kitchen and classroom space at the James Beard Public Market. Furthermore, we are supportive of the fact that classes and lectures will be offered at no cost and accessible to people living with low incomes, thus providing another venue to support increased consumption of fruits and vegetables in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of the James Beard Public Market proposal. We welcome new partners improving access to healthy local food.

Sincerely,

Leslie Sampson
Director of Agency Relations

Ginny Sorensen
Education Programs Manager

P.O. Box 55370
Portland, OR 97238-5370
PH 503-282-0555
FAX 503-282-0922

P.O. Box 5817
Beaverton, OR 97006-0817
PH 503-439-6510
FAX 503-439-6621

P.O. Box 716
Ontario, OR 97914-3914
PH 541-889-9206
FAX 541-889-4716

P.O. Box 1344
Tillamook, OR 97141-1344
PH 503-842-3154
FAX 503-842-1900

www.oregonfoodbank.org

A member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**