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ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

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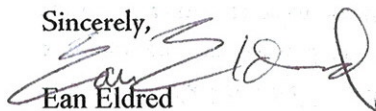
Dear, Multnomah County Commissioners,

As a member of the arts and architecture community committed to helping Portland remain a dynamic and sustainable urban center, I believe that our city would deeply benefit from the reintroduction of a vibrant, local and sustainable food based market. Just as Portland was able to reintroduce the long absent and highly sustainable streetcars, so too a centrally located market makes good planning sense, supports local jobs and highlights Portland's love of public spaces, local food and spirits.

The potential siting of the James Beard Market to the Morrison bridgehead would transform a space from one dedicated to cars into one dedicated to people - that is always a urban plus in my book. The Market would anchor the downtown retail core to the new Saturday market development, firehouse development and Waterfront Park. A active public market space would enliven the current below-bridge parking space into a vibrant urban amenity to be used year round, becoming a vital covered connection between downtown and Waterfront Park. A market on the bridgehead site would create a truly exciting "gateway" experience to and from downtown, without adjustments to the sites current zoning, height and FAR requirements.

I have had a long interest in markets going back to travels in Mexico. While my father bought Santos sculptures, I'd lose myself in the sprawling market at Oaxaca! Over the years I have had the opportunity to spent time in the Middle East & specifically Turkey. One reason I have found myself drawn to Turkey is that the markets play a central role (next to the mosque) in the cities and culture. Whenever I go to Istanbul, Izmir or any of the smaller towns, the first place I visit is the bazaar with its array of shops and food markets. The bazaar is a place to be with other people! The essence of markets the world over is that they serve as places for people to congregate and to be with one another, to not feel isolated- the core of any urban experience. What a pleasure to see friends and to have dinner in one of the market restaurants. Rather than having to travel half-way around the world, I look forward to having such experiences here on Portland's waterfront in the James Beard Public Market.

Sincerely,


Ean Eldred