

Maureen McDonnell
First Lady of Virginia.



The Executive Mansion
Richmond, Virginia, 23219

July 5, 2012

Dear Suzi and Mark,

Congratulations on the kick-off of BusFarm, Farm to Family's nonprofit urban farm and agricultural training center! It is a pleasure to recognize and celebrate your organization's efforts to empower and educate our youth and adults through sustainable urban agricultural initiatives of growing healthy food, soil, and communities.

You are inspiring and motivating our Commonwealth into action and are providing the proper resources to teach individuals to take responsibility for sustaining their communities. The BusFarm urban farm will reconnect community members with an understanding of the Earth and their food through the hands-on processes of daily activities and seasonal rhythms such as planting, harvesting, and preserving. I applaud your goal to create a local, regenerative, highly resilient model others can follow, that will provide life skills and jobs.

One of my key areas of focus for FLITE is emphasizing a Commonwealth of opportunity for preventative health and wellness, especially for our youth and service members. Your promotion and advocacy of local foods, agriculture, food security, and healthy eating are essential in encouraging Virginians to make healthy eating choices and to become more active cooking and growing their own food. The work you are doing will increase participants' overall happiness and quality of life by providing the knowledge they need to make healthy choices.

I extend my sincere appreciation for your contributions to promoting a Commonwealth of opportunity for preventative health and wellness and wish you the best fortune in your efforts with BusFarm.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen McDonnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Maureen McDonnell
First Lady of Virginia