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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

December 19, 2025

Administrator James Miller
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Letter of Support for Trust for Public Land's FY26 Farm to School Grant Program Application

Dear Administrator Miller:

On behalf of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I am writing to express my support for Trust for Public Land's application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for their Garfield Heights Grows: Cultivating Future Farmers through Agricultural Education program. This innovative, community-driven project represents exactly the type of integrated approach to agricultural education, workforce development, and local food systems that USDA programs are designed to advance.

This initiative, led by Trust for Public Land in partnership with Garfield Heights City Schools, RidAll Green Partnership, and The Ohio State University Extension, will significantly expand a state-certified Career-Technical Education agricultural and environmental systems pathway while strengthening the district's National School Lunch Program. By June 30, 2028, the project will invest in critical agricultural infrastructure—including a greenhouse, raised garden beds, aquaponics systems, and hydroponic towers—capable of producing more than 1,200 pounds of fresh produce and 100 tilapia annually. These investments will create hands-on, experiential learning environments that connect students directly to sustainable agriculture and local food systems.

Equally important, this project prioritizes student engagement and opportunity. More than 550 middle school students will participate in agricultural education experiences, while high school enrollment in the CTE pathway is projected to grow from 24 to 75 students. Expanded coursework, field trips, and growth of the Future Farmers of America chapter will open doors to competitions, scholarships, and career networks—particularly for students who have historically faced barriers to entering agricultural careers.

I strongly urge USDA Food and Nutrition Service to give this application careful review and consideration. Garfield Heights Grows is a powerful example of how agricultural education, community partnerships, and nutrition programs can work together to cultivate healthier students, stronger local food systems, and the next generation of farmers and food leaders.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress