

April 21, 2015

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We're writing to share with you our support, along with that of 25 of New York City's most prominent chefs and restaurateurs, for robust funding to secure the city's supply of fresh, local food by conserving its regional foodshed in the Hudson Valley. This is an issue of critical importance to the city's restaurant/tourism economy and its residents' public health, particularly those living in low and middle income communities lacking access to such food.

Attached please find a Statement of Support from the above mentioned chefs and restaurateurs in support of this goal, as well as the Foodshed Conservation Plan offering a data-driven, collaborative strategy for protecting the most productive agricultural lands in the city's foodshed.

Development pressures threaten 89 percent of Hudson Valley farmland, which supplies much of the city's fresh, local food. What's more, unmet demand for regionally produced food in New York City approaches \$1 billion annually.

You have a unique opportunity to become the nation's leading progressive food policy voice by taking steps to create a more resilient, sustainable regional food system. A strategic investment by the city will leverage \$20 million just committed by New York State to conserve Hudson Valley farmland, as well as substantial additional private and public support.

The city has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to conserve land in the watershed to protect its water supply. We're asking for your support to appropriate \$5 million per year for 10 years in the city's budget to conserve farms in its foodshed.

Thank you for your attention. We hope we can count on you to help conserve New York City's foodshed.

Sincerely,



Tim Zagat
Co-Founder, Co-Chair & CEO
Zagat Survey



Bill Telepan
Chef/owner
Telepan



Steve Rosenberg
Senior Vice President
Scenic Hudson, Inc.

NYC'S LEADING CHEFS AND RESTAURATEURS WHO SUPPORT CONSERVING NYC'S REGIONAL FOODSHED TO SECURE THE SUPPLY OF FRESH, LOCAL FOOD

We, the undersigned chefs and restaurateurs, hereby urge Mayor de Blasio and the City Council to secure New York City's long-term supply of fresh food by partnering with other public and private entities to conserve the regional farmland where it is produced, by:

1. Adopting a finding that it is in the public interest of New York City to have a secure supply of fresh, local food from regional New York farms.
2. Budgeting sufficient capital funds to be used to conserve farms in the Hudson Valley Foodshed Conservation Plan. Where possible, such funds shall be used to leverage funding from New York State, the federal government, and other sources.
3. Contracting with a regional not-for-profit land trust to purchase development rights on said farms to ensure that the region's farmland is secure and available to produce food and fiber for New York City and the metropolitan region.

Dan Barber

Executive Chef/co-owner
Blue Hill, Blue Hill at Stone Barns

Lidia Bastianich

Chef/owner
Becco, Del Posto, Eatley, Esca, Felidia

Mario Batali

Chef/owner
Babo, Bar Jamon, Casa Mono, Del Posto, Eatley, Esca, Lupa, Manzo, Otto, Tarry Lodge, Tarry Market

David Bouley

Chef/owner
Bouley, Brushstroke, Test Kitchen

Terrance Brennan

Chef/owner
Picholine, Artisanal Fromagerie, Bistro & Wine Bar, Bar Artisanal

Joey Campanaro

Chef/owner
The Little Owl, The Market Table, The Clam

Rebecca Charles

Chef/owner
Pearl Oyster Bar

Rocky Cirino

Managing Director
Ai Fiori Marea Ristorante Morini, Bedford Post Inn: Campagna and The Barn

Mary R. Cleaver

Chef/owner
The Cleaver Company, The Green Table, Table Green at The Battery

Tom Colicchio

Chef/owner
Colicchio & Sons, Craft, Craft Bar, Craftsteak, 'wichcraft, Voysey's

John DeLucie

Chef/proprietor
The Lion, Bills, Crown

Todd English

Chef/owner
Bonfire, Ça Va Brasserie, Todd English Food Hall

Shaun Hergatt

Chef/partner
Juni

Peter Hoffman

Chef/owner
Back Forty West

Daniel Humm

Chef/co-owner
Eleven Madison Park, The NoMad

Thomas Keller

Chef/owner
Per Se, Bouchon Bakery, Bouchon Bakery & Café

Michael Lomonaco

Chef/partner
Porter House New York

Danny Meyer

Chief Executive Officer
Union Square Hospitality Group

Dave Pasternack

Chef/owner
Barchetta, Esca

Eric Ripert

Chef/owner
Le Bernardin, Aldo Sohm Wine Bar

Bill Telepan

Chef/owner
Telepan

Nick Valenti

Chief Executive Officer
Patina Restaurant Group

Tom Valenti

Chef/owner
Oust Restaurant

Jean-Georges Vongerichten

Chef/owner
Jean-Georges, ABC Cocina, ABC Kitchen, JoJo, Nougatine, Perry St, The Mark, Mercer Kitchen

David Waltuck

Chef/partner
Élan