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Pamela Reaves-Harris
ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
10TH DISTRICT

May 5, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My office has been tasked with reviewing and subsequently endorsing EATS LLC supermarket, a proposed chain of stores sustainable in "Food Desert" communities like North Lawndale. Unlike specialty or convenience grocery outlets that cater to underserved communities, EATS offers a broad selection, at reasonable prices, while emphasizing high quality. I base my endorsement is on key components that have been targeted as part of our "built environment" comprehensive revitalization plan. Some EATS LLC components where I see value are:

- Local hiring for future oriented positions
- Coordinating with our existing neighborhood training programs to operate their
 - Teen Entrepreneurship program
 - Cafe and meal tasting culinary requirements
 - Warehouse operations that include ex-offender jobs
 - Shopping assistants to provide seamless customer transition to the shopping methods
 - Transportation systems to safely route customers to and from EATS supermarket
 - Congregation contributions that promote health through store membership
 - Secure Kids play area

Each of these components utilize our existing programs that often lack an end result of meaningful employment. Our community cannot thrive without employment opportunities for our citizens. Creating tax payers from tax receivers has obvious merit.

Our North Lawndale community experienced devastation from riots 50 years ago. Our community was subsequently decimated of businesses and population. We have launched a systematic recovery that must include jobs, health, a quality supermarket like EATS offers to revitalize our North Lawndale community.

As a practical business consideration, the impressive EATS business plan forecasts profits making it sustainable and not requiring subsequent governmental assistance. EATS LLC is a "Social Enterprise" (business entity that considers employees, vendors, customers as "stakeholders, as well as investors). They also qualify to have a pending "B-Corp certification" (*certification of providing a measured rating of community benefit). Their LEED Certification architectural plan creates an uplifting shopping experience for their customers and employees.

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My office will be working to secure State assistance to make this a new North Lawndale business.

Portions of the EATS LLC plan are viewable at www.EatsGroceries.com

***Scoring 140 versus an average score of 97 in B-Lab application for successful applicants**

Sincerely,

Pamela Reaves-Harris

State Representative, 10th District

