

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

June 26, 2017

Thom Alcazar  
EATS Groceries  
c/o [talcazar@eatsgroceries.com](mailto:talcazar@eatsgroceries.com)

Dear Mr. Alcazar:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed development of EATS Groceries (EATS). EATS is a social enterprise committed to harnessing the power of private enterprise for the public benefit of improving health outcomes in primarily underserved and low-income communities. EATS is prepared to develop an established chain of sustainable grocery stores for the much needed food deserts that plague areas such as the West Side of Chicago.

The ideologies of their core beliefs are to confront not only the issue of food deserts, but also the absents of work opportunities for youth and ex-offenders. EATS emphasizes their priorities in providing opportunities to hire local residents and consult contracts with local vendors in the communities.

EATS is planned to be a competitive and community contributing enterprise that considers the interests of stakeholders, employees, vendors and customers. As a community first approach, they are in the mind set of interacting with the corner stone of the communities, such as faith based organizations.

Unlike specialty or convenience grocery outlets that cater to underserved communities, EATS offers a broad selection, at reasonable prices, while providing high quality products. They base their endorsement on key components that have been targeted as part of their "built environment" comprehensive revitalization plan. EATS plans to accomplish these goals by improving access to healthy foods, providing nutrition education, cooking instruction, and health-screening services to the local communities.

For any additional information, please contact me at (708) 450-1000 or email me at [repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com](mailto:repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emanuel C. Welch".

Emanuel "Chris" Welch  
State Representative, 7<sup>th</sup> District