AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Ratification of Correspondence; Letter of Support;

Action Requested:

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Please see attached letter for ratification.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Josh Ost **Submitter's Email Address:** jost@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 9/30/2016

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 10/4/2016

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

To: USDA Community Facilities Grant
Application Review Team

Sept 26, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of support for the application by Mountain Roots Food Project for a 2017 USDA Community Facilities Grant.

Gunnison County cherishes its sense of community and place. We strive to preserve and promote the well-being of the County's citizens, natural environment and rural character. The work of Mountain Roots, i.e. cultivating a resilient food system for Gunnison Valley, is directly aligned with one of our four primary strategic priorities: promoting healthy, collaborative, and prosperous communities. Gunnison is a USDA Class 2 Food Desert, and there are pockets of poverty where food security, social determinants of health, and economic challenges are great.

This small organization works on a large scale, county wide, to deliver programs that build community food security, support the development of local, sustainable agriculture, promote individual and community health, and educate and engage our residents in working together to build a more sustainable future.

Mountain Roots has gained strong donor and business support, has developed strong partnerships, and proven themselves to be good managers of limited resources. A Community Facilities Grant would enable the organization to scale up their successful pilot CSA program that delivers positive results at the intersection of economic development, food security, and revitalizing local agriculture on both the supply and demand-side chains. Indeed, a project such as this provides an essential service that meets a need in the community and is in line with the County's goals to revitalize local agriculture and make progress in economic development.

Mountain Roots rents office space in one of the County buildings, which includes a garage which provides a location for the CSA storage, aggregation, and processing until that, too, can be scaled up. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners are pleased to endorse the project and support Mountain Roots Food Project's application for a FY 2017 Community Facilities Grant.

Sincerely,

Paula Swenson, Chairperson | Phil Chamberland, Commissioner | Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

200 East Virginia Avenue • Gunnison, CO 81230