

October 1, 2005
End Hunger CT!
860.560.2100

I am Carl Asikainen, I live in Eastford Ct, which is in Windham County. I am an outreach worker for End Hunger CT! for the food stamp program in the Eastern part of the state.

I am here to give testimony to the significance of the Farmers Market program and the potential positive effects of the EBT program being expanded into more and more of these markets as an acceptable form of payment. The Food Stamp Program already provides the state with millions of dollars in payments to individuals for food purchases and is one of the vital components of our nation's food and nutrition programs. I contend that the expansion of EBT technologies to more farmers markets will serve agriculture by expanding markets and also serve individual recipients by providing them with highly nutritious, locally grown vegetables and fruit. In my work in and through emergency food sites in the state I am acutely aware that fresh, perishable foods make up a very small portion of the foods available for people. It is truly in our best interest as a nation concerned with nutrition and in the spirit of the Food Stamp Program to offer more options to recipients of this benefit.

Thank You

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