To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Reginald F. Lewis high school of Business and Law in support of the Baltimore Orchard Project’s application for the USDA Community Food Project Grant. We strongly support this grant application and its focus on strengthening communities through planting and cultivating orchards, teaching neighbors to be long-term stewards, and sharing the harvest among us all. As a school that strives to foster a strong community of 21st century citizens who are equipped to create their own destiny, take accountability for their own actions, and promote civic responsibility through exploration in Business Law, agriculture and real world application, we recognize how BOP will help us live up to our mission.

Through this letter, we acknowledge specific roles and responsibilities we will fulfill in this partnership.  In the event this proposal is funded, we would expect our role in to include:

* Commit to planting and caring for the community orchard, including weeding, watering and other general upkeep;
* Create a maintenance plan for summer months and other regular school holidays;
* Prepare for regular dates for BOP’s Orchard Youth Education Program;
* Harvest and distribute orchard produce within the community in a manner that expands access to fresh foods. Any revenue from sales of orchard produce shall not benefit any private business or individuals;
* Collaborate with BOP on creating a positive experience for students and volunteers on scheduled work days, including helping supervise participants;

We are grateful for our partnership with BOP as we promote civic responsibility in Baltimore. We hope you consider granting BOP with the resources needed to bolster their plantings, stewardship, youth education programs, harvests, and distribution. Such resources and support from the USDA could be a defining point in their efforts of creating a healthier Baltimore.

Sincerely,

Matthew Biegel

Agriculture Teacher

Reginald F. Lewis High School