



March 2, 2021

Chela O'Connor, President  
Save The Farm

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

Groundswell Conservancy supports the visionary efforts of Save The Farm to create a purpose-built neighborhood that incorporates core values of anti-racism, diversity/inclusion, affordable housing, urban agriculture, and environmental sustainability on the Voit Farm in Madison.

The mission of Groundswell Conservancy is to protect special places, forever. We want everyone to live in a world filled with green places where communities thrive. We believe that land is essential for people's physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

Since 1983 we have helped communities and landowners permanently protect more than 13,000 acres of important land and water in Dane County and the surrounding area. We work to provide equitable access to land and nature by understanding and overcoming barriers that potential user groups face in obtaining access to and securing tenure to land for local food production.

We see overlap between the vision, mission, and goals of Save The Farm and Groundswell.

In particular, the urban agriculture component of your goals for the Voit Farm appear similar to our work to provide access for Hmong market and subsistence growers at our ten-acre Westport Farm on the east side of Waunakee. We also see parallels to our work to establish a long-term home for the innovative agricultural programming offered by Neighborhood Food Solutions at our Pasley's Swan Creek Farm in Fitchburg. NFS focuses on meeting the needs of youth and adults, mainly African Americans and Latinxs, through two programs: the FAIR initiative (Farming After Incarceration Release) and the PEAT initiative (Program for Entrepreneurial Agricultural Training for teenagers). A new program partner will be joining us at Pasley this spring: TradeRoots, which focuses on culinary and agricultural education, emphasizing African Diaspora practices.

There may also be overlap between your wetland conservation goals and our work to conserve and manage wetlands for multiple benefits, including wildlife, nature appreciation, and mitigating the climate crisis.



If our experiences would be of assistance to your efforts, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we might partner with Save The Farm.

Sincerely,

Carrie Breunig  
Member, Board of Directors

Jim Welsh  
Executive Director

Yimmuj Yang  
Community Director