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COMMITTEES:
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The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

March 5, 2021

Senator Blake Tillery
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
234 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chairman Tillery:

I hereby request funding in the amount of \$150,000 to be added to the FY2022 budget for the Southwest Georgia Project (SWGP). This funding will allow SWGP to begin the next phase of construction for a community food hub to bolster Southwest Georgia farmers, economy, and public health.

In partnership with flagship community institutions, schools and local government, the Hub will help close the food insecurity gap in the region by creating a sustainable food economy centered around local farmers, families, and communities. The Hub will provide for the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of locally and regionally produced food products from farmers to strengthen their ability to sell their goods to local and regional outlets. In addition, the Community Hub in its complete form will ultimately house a range of community and youth focused entities including catering facilities, meeting spaces, computer labs, farmers' market, and training programs. In the near term, with these funds, SWGP will be able to expand capacity to hold farmers markets and jumpstart their collaboration with Dougherty County Schools.

This project emerges from decades of organizing local communities around civil rights, voting, food and nutrition issues, and farm marketing and viability. The Dougherty County School System as well as farmers and consumers in 13 surrounding counties (Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Decatur, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, and Worth Counties) stand to benefit from this project with economic development and public health outcomes.

The Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc. (EIN: 58-1172475) located at 1216 Dawson Road, Suite 108, Albany, Georgia 31707 coordinates this project and would receive the funds. Project Director Ms. Amber Brown or Executive Director Ms. Shirley Sherrod can be contacted to provide additional supporting documentation as needed.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Jackson".

Kimberly S. Jackson
Senator, District 41