



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

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July 29, 2009

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Governor of the State of Oregon
State Capitol, Room 160
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Request for Designation of Oregon Solutions Project: Portland Community Gardens

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

We are writing to request that you designate the Portland Community Gardens project as an Oregon Solutions project.

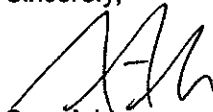
We have seen a tremendous increase in demand for opportunities to grow food in the Portland-Metropolitan region. The concerns driving the sustainability movement-- such as climate change, social cohesion, and self sufficiency-- have all contributed to a growing awareness of the advantages of community gardens. Likewise, the current economic crisis has underscored the importance of food security, public health, and community development efforts.

Oregon Solutions can help us to bring together the public, private and civic partners needed to significantly increase community gardening opportunities. Multiple organizations are working on this issue. Oregon Solutions would provide a neutral forum that can help us leverage local expertise and funding while expanding existing programs. An Oregon Solutions project will also help us to align the tools and resources necessary to support those wanting to grow food in Portland.

Your support, demonstrated by this designation, is critical to bringing the diverse partners to the table and achieving results that will have a lasting impact in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Sam Adams
Mayor


Nick Fish
Parks Commissioner


Zari Santner
Parks Director


Susan Anderson
Planning and Sustainability Director


Weston Miller
Chair of Food Policy Council