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11/5/22

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Angelina Harrison and I would like to express my support for the SARE project proposal submitted by Cheryl Nunes and Annie Moore from River Queen Greens. As the Director of Markets for Market Umbrella, I have gotten to know Annie and Cheryl well since they first began vending with us four years ago, and they have become a valuable agricultural producer at our markets, raising the bar for customer expectations and varieties and quality of product offered at market.

Market Umbrella is the New Orleans non-profit established in 1995 that operates the Crescent City Farmers Markets and a number of nutrition incentive and fresh food access programs, including the Greaux the Good program that enables farmers markets across Louisiana to implement SNAP and FMNP match programs. We operate as a business incubator and food system support organization, and River Queen Greens has been an invaluable partner in sharing their learning and helping MU to offer technical assistance to producers in our network. They have quickly established themselves as an important part of our local food ecosystem.

River Queen Greens is a valuable produce vendor at our Thursday market as they are the only Certified Naturally Grown produce vendor, and they routinely offer the largest and most consistent selection of organically grown produce available. They are popular with customers, and their absence is strongly felt each summer as our overall produce offerings tend to decrease in tandem with the intense heat, humidity, and rainfall that our summers bring. Many conventional growers begin to return with robust tables in September, but River Queen Greens is not typically back with a full offering until mid or late October. If River Queen Greens is able to extend their growing season into the summer and thus return to the Farmers Market in September, it would be a welcome boost for our late summer and early fall markets. Because of this, I would like to offer my full support for their SARE project proposal which aims to extend production season through new mulching techniques into months that have very little local fresh produce available.

I enthusiastically encourage your consideration of this proposal, and support of this energetic, inspirational, and community-minded new farm operation.

Sincerely,

  
Angelina Harrison

Director of Markets, Market Umbrella

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<b>TITLE</b>	MU SARE letter of support
<b>FILE NAME</b>	RQG SARE LOS.pdf
<b>DOCUMENT ID</b>	a774ab1430cf3f224d98ba50a8bffadd9be90b1b
<b>AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT</b>	MM / DD / YYYY
<b>STATUS</b>	● Signed

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## Document History



SENT

**11 / 10 / 2022**

20:58:18 UTC

Sent for signature to Angelina Harrison  
(angelina@marketumbrella.org) from  
angelina@marketumbrella.org  
IP: 72.215.133.175



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20:58:23 UTC

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**11 / 10 / 2022**

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