

**KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL**  
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

1711 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5265 — PHONE  
(202) 225-5910 — FAX

325 ESSJAY ROAD, SUITE 405  
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221  
(716) 634-2324 — PHONE  
(716) 631-7610 — FAX

<http://www.hochul.house.gov>

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3226

June 7, 2012

Darrel J. Aubertine, Commissioner  
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

Dear Commissioner Aubertine:

It has come to my attention that New York State is considering the development of several food hub centers across Upstate New York. I strongly encourage you to consider the placement and development of food hubs in one or more of the counties located in the 26<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Agricultural production forms the backbone of the rural economy in my district, where there are nearly 3,500 farms with an annual output of over \$739 million. The establishment of food hubs will improve the flow of products to urban areas within the state.

As I am sure you are aware, according to the United States Department of Agriculture many agricultural producers, especially small and midsized growers, face significant challenges when it comes to aggregation, distribution, processing, storage, and marketing of their products. By being the central coordinator of supply chain logistics, food hubs offer a variety of services that benefit small and midsize producers. For instance, food hubs can aggregate local produce from many small farmers into orders to satisfy the requirements of large buyers for source-identified locally and regionally grown food.

Fruit cultivated from orchards along the shores of Lake Ontario, vegetables grown in the fertile soils of our mucklands, and nutritious dairy products yielded from our herds are examples of the high quality and diverse agricultural products that come from the breadbasket of New York. We must protect this critical sector of our economy and do everything within our power to develop New York State's agriculture industry to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter impacting the farmers of my district and our state.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul  
Member of Congress