



334 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

January 14, 2021

On behalf of Our Kitchen Table, I am pleased to provide this Letter of Support to Wormies Vermicompost Farm as it pursues a continued lease at 1364 Maplewood Drive. As a grassroots nonprofit helping folks grow food in Grand Rapids southeast neighborhoods, we are committed to collaborating with Wormies to develop their vision for community-based composting and healthy local soil close by in the Jenison area. Compost is one of the costlier investments we make in our clients' gardens—and it is hard to find compost that we can trust. Wormies has helped us with both of these issues.

I understand the barriers to land access for farmers as well as healthy food for those less fortunate in our community. I believe Luis will strive to partner and collaborate in effective ways with others in the community, by diverting food scraps from hundreds of households to make healthy compost, providing support to many community garden and area farms, and educating others in the best practices of soil health and sustainable agriculture.

I met Luis several years ago as he was developing his business. He is energetic, passionate and caring for the community. It has been exciting to watch Wormies grow and expand. The City of Grand Rapids is hoping to support more and more households participating in composting, and Wormies provides an excellent opportunity for our residents to be educated about the benefits of composting and get started.

Wormies is a fantastic startup business and Luis is an excellent leader. Their mission aligns with some of my hopes as an elected leader in the City of Grand Rapids. I can see that this community partnership is essential for the sustainability of the farmland and for the betterment of Jenison and greater Grand Rapids. I am eager to see Wormies Vermicompost be able to continue their growth and expansion in the area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and I would be happy to share my enthusiasm for Wormies and hopes for their impact in the region.

Sincerely,
Lisa Oliver-King, MPH
Executive Director