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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

July 18, 2018

Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing to urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide an immediate solution to Novo Dia Group's impending withdrawal from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT Transactions service.

Novo Dia Group, one of the few service providers who offer SNAP EBT processing technology, is set to pull out of the service by the end of July. This withdrawal would pose a substantial challenge to those who shop for groceries using SNAP benefits at the over 1,700 farmers markets nationwide. In New York alone, tens of thousands of SNAP recipients will be unable to access affordable, fresh, healthy food from farmers' markets as a result of this withdrawal.

GrowNYC, which runs 50 of New York City's farmers markets, exclusively uses the Novo Dia technology and will be left unable to facilitate transactions without it. GrowNYC supports hundreds of small farmers in the Hudson Valley and throughout New York. In fact, Hudson Valley vegetable growers earned more than \$300,000 in 2017 through GrowNYC markets while Hudson Valley orchards earned nearly \$150,000. Overall, SNAP transactions and Health Bucks, a program run by GrowNYC, these purchases generated \$1.5 million in revenue for nearly 300 of New York's small farmers. Any loss of access to these benefits at farmers markets would be devastating to the health and food-security of low-income Americans and hurt our small farmers during the peak of their season.

I respectfully request that the USDA take immediate action to avoid this significant loss to SNAP participants and farmers throughout the country. Thank you for your attention this letter. I look forward to hearing from you soon on this matter.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress