



MARCY KAPTUR

REPRESENTING OHIO'S 9TH DISTRICT



H.R., 3699 THE URBAN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION ACT PRESS TALKING POINTS

- The goal of the Urban Agriculture Production Act is to spur the development and expansion of regional and local food systems in nontraditional agriculture production areas. Specifically, the bill sets out to strengthen farmers markets, improve nutrition for low-income seniors and veterans, and bolster existing USDA programs that support farmers, ranchers, and producers as a tool for economic development.
- Rep. Kaptur hopes the Urban Agriculture Production Act can serve as a marker for the next Farm Bill reauthorization. Her key goals are to support small farmers and producers, eliminate food deserts, and promote local agriculture in our nation's metropolitan areas.
- Among its provisions, the Urban Agriculture Production Act:
 - ✓ establishes an Urban Agriculture Liaison and Outreach Program at USDA,
 - ✓ improves agricultural reporting with the inclusion of Farmers Markets,
 - ✓ expands the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to include veterans, and
 - ✓ provides for competitive grants to advance agriculture production in underserved, undernourished metropolitan areas.
- The bill also establishes a loan and loan guarantee program for projects¹ that expand and promote direct producer to consumer marketing and that assist in the development of local food business enterprises.
- Despite the United States being an advanced economy, many neighborhoods and communities are categorically food and nutrient short populations.
- There is a disconnect between daily urban life, health outcomes, and food production that urban agriculture can help address.
- Advances in agricultural practices, technologies, and natural resources make agriculture production possible in previously ignored locations including urban areas that were once cordoned off from agricultural production.
- It is imperative to ensure that advances in urban agriculture be available as a viable option to help meet the food production needs of the future and to address chronic food and nutrition shortages of communities.

¹ Eligible projects includes those for the construction of new farmer markets, the acquisition of equipment for farmers markets and other infrastructure needs, or transportation and delivery activities.