

**Farmers Market, York PA**  
**January 15, 2010**

Thank you all for being here today. Thank you to my fellow elected officials – Representative Eugene Depasquale, County Commissioner Doug Hoke, City Treasurer Krebs, City Council President Ray, Councilman Smith, Nelson and Nixon. Friends of the Markets, both Farmers and Central, I am delighted to share this day with you.

As the first Pennsylvania Democrat elected to a full Senate term since 1962, U.S. Senator Bob Casey knows that public service is a privilege and that he was elected to fight for Pennsylvania priorities and Pennsylvania values. He is working to foster financial security for American families, protect our children and invest in their futures and ensure safety and prosperity here in the Commonwealth.

Senator Casey's hard work plants seeds across our entire Commonwealth and with local support we will see these seeds grow. Too often we overlook or minimize the agricultural might of our great state. We forget that Pennsylvania's 58,000 farm families continue to be the stewards of more than 7.7 million acres of farmland. With \$4.7 billion in cash receipts annually from production agriculture, Pennsylvania farmers and agri-businesses are the leading economic driver in our state.

In addition to production agriculture, the industry raises revenue and supplies jobs through support services such as food processing, marketing, transportation, and farm equipment. In total, production agriculture and agri-business contributes nearly \$45 billion to Pennsylvania's economy.

And here, locally, in York County – or as some call it – the “***Snack Food***” Capital of the World, we produce an enormous amount of fresh food. York's first industry, agriculture, is still one of our leading and most cherished industries. It employs our neighbors and enriches our lives, feeding our nation with fresh York County produce. We forget that York County has over

500,000 acres of farmland and open space. In a state where agriculture is still a serious economic engine, Senator Casey is working for Pennsylvanians and locally for York Countians.

And what better stage to be on today, then one of our cherished historic gems in York City, our Farmers Market. Serving York Countians since 1866, we stand today in York's oldest markethouse. Only three blocks west of our Central Farmers Market, built in 1888. As Yorkers, we are blessed with two markets serving our City and Community at-large. A gathering place where families come to congregate, socialize, share stories, and access fresh, local produce and eclectic cuisine. In York County we are fortunate to have several markets, not limited to those in our City, but Shrewsbury, Springettsbury Township and others, endure as testaments to the rich agricultural heritage passed down to the present.

We cannot take these markets for granted. We overlook the convenience, we as Yorkers have of *“going to market.”* Central Market and Farmers Market are our City's historic timepieces. Separated by only 22 years in construction and four city blocks, these buildings have stood inextricably linked, together, for 122 years. Wow! Just think if these brick walls could talk, the tales they would tell. Much like a 122-year-old timepiece, the face and pieces may wear and tear without proper attention and care. To ensure that we hand these heirlooms, passed down by families before us, to our children and their families, we must collectively assert our passion to invest, revitalize and refresh our City Markets. The seeds of revitalization are planted in collaboration, communication and fostering good will. Together, as a community and with help from our leaders at the state and federal level, we can renew our Markets to ensure they stand for future generations to enjoy and cherish and build their lasting family memories of Market, as many of us have today.

We gather here today – as a community -- to welcome with a smile our United States Senator Bob Casey. A statesman who believes that “all public service is a trust, given in faith and accepted in honor.” We are proud to welcome to our Market, to our City and to our community, Senator Bob Casey.