

DANNY K. DAVIS
7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2159 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6006

CHICAGO DISTRICT OFFICE:
3333 WEST ARTHINGTON STREET
SUITE 130
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624
(773) 533-7520

BROADVIEW DISTRICT OFFICE:
2301 ROOSEVELT ROAD
BROADVIEW, ILLINOIS 60155
(708) 345-6857

www.davis.house.gov

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1307

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April 11, 2011

Dear Funder:

It is with great enthusiasm that I am writing a letter of support for Michael Lahey's documentary, *Shelf Life*, an historical examination of the Chicago candy industry.

For over a century, Chicago was known as the "Candy Capital of the World," teeming with over 200 confectioneries. The city's largest company, Brach's Candy, was in my own 7th Congressional District on Chicago's West Side until 2003. *Shelf Life* explores the reasons why Chicago became the center of candy production, and traces the two-decades-long industry downturn, including the closure of Brach's and the more than 1,500 jobs lost.

Shelf Life is also an important film for the personal story of Lahey's grandfather, Italian immigrant Elmo Lanzi, a Chicago inventor and candy maker for over 60 years. The film shows Elmo's continuing influence on Chicago candy, as it follows a local businessman attempting to recreate and reintroduce Lanzi's most popular confection back to the city.

I believe *Shelf Life* will serve as a historically valuable resource for the city of Chicago and will help spark dialogue on jobs and family businesses in today's local economy.

Lahey is a dedicated, award-winning filmmaker, and I am confident that with *Shelf Life*, he will make another socially and artistically important film.

Sincerely,



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
7th District of Illinois