

June 9, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

In 1946 the Congress enacted the National School Lunch Act "to safeguard the health and well being of the Nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agriculture commodities." While the statute has been amended many times, Section 2, the stated Declaration of Policy, has never changed and American agriculture continues to be a strong supporter of the federal child nutrition programs.

As representative of American agriculture, we support the bipartisan House majority that has written to you urging a high priority for child nutrition reauthorization as you establish the agenda for the remainder of this Congress. The nutrition guidelines for the child nutrition programs must be improved to keep pace with current science and to reverse unacceptably high rates of obesity. Program access should be expanded to keep pace with clear need in this difficult economy and to ensure school children are nourished for learning. There is a historic moment at hand and a rare consensus to move these programs forward. **Please don't let our children be overlooked in the press of other major national concerns.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Fruit and Vegetable  
Processors and Growers Coalition

American Mushroom Institute

Cherry Marketing Institute

Leafy Greens Council

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Council of Farmer  
Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Onion Association

National Peach Council

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

National Watermelon Association

North American Blueberry Council

Produce for Better Health  
Foundation

Produce Marketing Association

U.S. Apple Association

United Fresh Produce Association  
Association

Midwest Food Processors

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

California Avocado Commission

California Citrus Mutual	California Grape & Tree Fruit League
California Tomato Farmers	Fresh Produce and Floral Council
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California	Western Growers Association
Western Pistachio Association	Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Florida Strawberry Growers Association	Florida Tomato Exchange
Indian River Citrus League	Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Watermelon Association	New York Apple Association
New York State Vegetable Growers Association, Inc.	Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.
Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission	Oregon Strawberry Commission
South Carolina Watermelon Association	Texas Produce Association
Virginia Apple Growers Association	Washington State Fruit Commission
Northwest Cherry Growers	Northwest Horticultural Council
Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association	Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association