

April 21, 2016

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
House Education & the Workforce Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Ranking Member
House Education & the Workforce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

We the undersigned produce organizations and companies write to request your strong support to keep the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) "fresh" in the House Child Nutrition Bill. We are opposed to the House Education and Workforce Committee's Child Nutrition Bill, H.R. 5003, that changes the FFVP to include "all forms" of processed fruits and vegetables.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program has been a model of success for more than a decade, providing 4 million low income elementary students with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack every day at school, introducing them to a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and helping them develop healthy eating habits for a lifetime. A national evaluation demonstrated that the FFVP significantly increases children's fruit and vegetable consumption, is very popular with schools, parents and children, and schools say the FFVP also results in students eating more fruits and vegetables at lunch. Also, a recent study has demonstrated that the FFVP reduces childhood obesity in participating children.

Further, ample amounts of processed fruits and vegetables are already served in school meals. In fact, between 2010 and 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture purchased over \$2.8 billion dollars of processed fruits and vegetables that primarily went to school lunch and breakfast programs. The FFVP introduces children to fresh produce which is a win-win for improving acceptance of healthier school meals, improving their eating habits and health.

Therefore, we strongly oppose H.R. 5003 that changes the FFVP to include "all forms" of processed canned, frozen, dried, pureed fruits and vegetables, and urge the House Education and Workforce Committee to maintain the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program as a "fresh" fruit and vegetable program for children.

Very respectfully,

United Fresh Produce Association
American Mushroom Institute
National Association of Perishable
Agricultural Receivers
Leafy Greens Council
National Onion Association
National Peach Council
National Watermelon Association

North American Raspberry & Blueberry Association
Produce Marketing Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Sweet Potato Council
Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association
Illinois-Indiana Watermelon Association
Maryland-Delaware Watermelon Association

Northwest Horticultural Council
Southeast Produce Council
Western Growers
Western Watermelon Association
Alabama Watermelon Association
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
California Avocado Commission
California Citrus Mutual
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Pear Growers Association
Fresh Produce and Floral Council
Grower-Shipper Association of Central
California
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers
Association
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Florida Citrus Packers
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Florida Watermelon Association
Georgia Blueberry Growers Association

Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Peach Council
Georgia Watermelon Association
Michigan Apple Association
New York Apple Association
North Carolina Strawberry Association
North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission
North Carolina Watermelon Association
Ohio Fruit Growers Marketing Association
Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association
Oklahoma Fruit and Vegetable Association
Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Program
South Carolina Watermelon Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Vegetable Association
Texas Watermelon Association
Vermont Tree Fruit Growers Association
Virginia Apple Growers Association
Virginia State Horticultural Society
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers
Association

Ciruli Brothers
Tubac, Arizona (AZ-3)

Hendrix Produce
Metter, Georgia (GA-12)

SunFed
Rio Rico, Arizona (AZ-3)

Cabbage Michigan
Petersburg, Michigan (MI-7)

Del Monte Fresh Produce, N.A., Inc.
Richmond, California (CA-11)

Neogen Corporation
Lansing, Michigan (MI-8)

Polymer Logistics
Riverside, California (CA-41)

Hollar & Greene Produce Company, Inc.
Boone, North Carolina (NC-5)

Fresh Origins
San Marcos, California (CA-50)

Robinson Fresh
Winston Salem, North Carolina (NC-5)

Robinson Fresh
Miramar, Florida (FL-24)

Sy Katz Produce, Inc.
Boone, North Carolina (NC-5)

Premier Produce
Pembroke Park, Florida (FL-24)

Exportadora Farmer's Friend
Brooklyn, New York (NY-8)

DiMare Homestead, Inc.
Homestead, Florida (FL-26)

Produce Packaging, Inc.
Cleveland, Ohio (OH-11)

Cabbage Kentucky
Owensboro, Kentucky (KY-2)

Vineyard Fruit & Vegetable Company, Inc.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (OK-5)

Coggins Produce Georgia
Lake Park, Georgia (GA-1)

Direct Advantage, LLC
Columbia, South Carolina (SC-2)

Walter P. Rawl & Sons, Inc.
Pelion, South Carolina (SC-2)

Fox Packaging
McAllen, Texas (TX-15)

Triple H Produce LLC
Pharr, Texas (TX-15)

Produce Source Partners
Newport News, Virginia (VA-3)

Produce Source Partners
Ashland, Virginia (VA-7)

Allen Lund Company, Inc.
North Chesterfield, Virginia (VA-7)

Alsum Farms & Produce Inc.
Friesland, Wisconsin (WI-6)

CC: House Education and the Workforce Committee