Ms. Mollie Van Lieu  
Senior Director, Nutrition Policy  
United Fresh Produce Association  
mvanlieu@unitedfresh.org

Dear Ms. Van Lieu:

Thank you for your response, on behalf of the United Fresh Produce Association, to the Federal Register notice requesting comments on the proposed information collection for the study, School Food Purchase Study IV, published May 13, 2020. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) appreciates your support for the study and the valuable information it will provide to program operators and other stakeholders.

In your letter, you supported the study’s approach to collecting one specified quarter of food purchase data from each selected school food authority (SFA), and asked that we consider the seasonality of fresh produce and SFA locations in data analysis. As in prior food purchase studies, we will combine the quarterly data provided by SFAs to produce estimates of food purchases for the school year. This approach helps account for variations in purchase patterns across the school year, for fresh produce and other foods.

Given the changes in school nutrition operations and purchases since COVID-19, you recommended that we use quarterly historical Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and other available data to supplement study data on fresh produce and capture procurement trends. Your letter also included suggested questions to capture the impact of COVID-19 on food purchases. We appreciate the significant impact COVID-19 has had on school nutrition operations, and are exploring appropriate opportunities to gather input from program operators. We will consider the questions you provided and contact you if we have followup questions.

Thank you again for your support of the School Food Purchase Study IV.

Sincerely,

Jinee Burdg, MPP RDN LDN  
Office of Policy Support  
USDA – Food and Nutrition Service