

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  
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 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

Ciruli Brothers  
Tubac, Arizona (AZ-3)

SunFed  
Rio Rico, Arizona (AZ-3)

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

Polymer Logistics  
Riverside, California (CA-41)

Fresh Origins  
San Marcos, California (CA-50)

Robinson Fresh  
Miramar, Florida (FL-24)

Premier Produce  
Pembroke Park, Florida (FL-24)

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

Cabbage Kentucky  
Owensboro, Kentucky (KY-2)

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

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

Hendrix Produce  
Metter, Georgia (GA-12)

Cabbage Michigan  
Petersburg, Michigan (MI-7)

Neogen Corporation  
Lansing, Michigan (MI-8)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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