

June 29, 2023

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our millions of members and supporters, we thank you for your leadership on the White House Conference and [National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). In particular, we thank your administration for making the critical and overdue commitment to updating and implementing the *Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities* (FSG). This commitment acknowledged that the federal government must lead by example to transform our food system for the better. With less than two years left of this presidential term, we urge you to make good on this commitment with an Executive Order to update and require implementation of the FSG in all federally owned and operated facilities. The Executive Order should also establish a timeline and process for developing and implementing comprehensive, [values-aligned food procurement](#) standards for federal agencies.

Currently, the federal government's annual expenditure of approximately \$8.8 billion¹ in food purchases largely supports the status quo industrial food system, which compromises human, animal, and planetary health through exploitation of farm and food workers, concentration of corporate wealth, degradation of natural resources, and overproduction of highly processed foods with low nutrition value. The Rockefeller Foundation conservatively [estimated](#) that for every dollar consumers spend on food in the United States, there are at least \$2 in externalized costs to human health, the environment, biodiversity, and worker livelihoods. Many of these costs are disproportionately borne by Black, Indigenous, and Latine communities.

Comprehensive implementation of the FSG, via an Executive Order, would instead leverage government purchasing power and operations to [improve](#) health outcomes and reduce long-term health care costs—creating net cost savings for the federal government—for the millions of people who rely on federal food service operations, including federal employees, veterans in Veterans Affairs hospitals, members of the armed services, and people who are incarcerated in federal prisons.

Leveraging federal food purchasing to promote racial equity, mitigate climate change, and empower workers is also consistent with the goals of several previously issued executive orders, including , Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability ([E.O. 14057](#)), Climate-Related Financial Risk ([E.O. 14030](#)), Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government ([E.O. 13985](#)), Worker Organizing and Empowerment ([E.O. 14025](#)) and Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All ([E.O. 14096](#)).

Since their inception in 2011, voluntary uptake of the FSG in federal facilities has been slow and uneven, with [limited data](#) available on implementation. The adoption of a consistent, mandatory policy for all federal executive branch facilities would yield economies of scale, and would facilitate and simplify education, implementation, and enforcement. In light of the [White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities](#)' explicit call for state and local governments to adopt the FSG, requiring implementation in federal facilities would be a clear signal to all that the federal government is willing to “walk the walk.”

¹ This statistic was provided by the Congressional Research Service. More information is available upon request.

Further, implementation can be robust while reflecting the realities of federal food service operations. Several agencies have made strides in healthy and climate-friendly food service that demonstrate the feasibility of these strategies in a federal agency context. For example, the Veterans Health Administration [requires](#) that inpatient menus meet the agency’s Healthy Diet Guidelines. The Bureau of Prisons’ [national menu](#) includes a plant-based main dish option at every lunch and dinner meal. While these examples are laudable, they represent exceptions to the norm. The proposed Executive Order would build on these accomplishments and ensure that urgently-needed progress does not depend on the extraordinary initiative of individual champions in each agency.

Proponents of such an Executive Order include the undersigned 160 non-governmental organizations, [seven members of the House of representatives](#), [Senator Cory Booker](#), [a former director of the CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity](#), and the [Task Force on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#).

In the same way that federal energy procurement has accelerated the transition to clean energy across the U.S. economy, federal food procurement and service can catalyze the just, healthy, and sustainable food system transformation we desperately need. We are ready and eager to assist the Biden-Harris Administration in this effort.

Sincerely,

350 Eugene
350 Humboldt
A Well-Fed World
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Agricultural Justice Project
Alaska Food Policy Council
American Grassfed Association
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Balanced
Berkeley Unified School District
Better Food Foundation
Boulder County Farmers Market
Bountiful Cities
Bozeman Birders
Brighter Green
Bronx Eats, Inc.
California Alliance of Academics and Communities for Public Health Equity
California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Carteret (NC) Food and Health Council
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Food Safety
Center for Good Food Purchasing

Center for Science in the Public Interest
Ceres Community Project
ChangeLab Solutions
Chef Ann Foundation
Chef Mikey LLC
Chicago Food Policy Action Council
Chilis on Wheels
Christian Animal Rights Association
City Blossoms
Climate Hawks Vote
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Community Builders of St. Paul
Community Food Advocates
DC Greens
DC Voters for Animals
Down East Coal Ash Environmental and Social Justice Coalition
Earthjustice
ECFC
Environmental Working Group
Equity Transit
Errol Schweizer LLC
Factory Farming Awareness Coalition
Fair Start Movement
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Action
Farm Aid
Farm Forward
Farm Sanctuary
Farmworker Association of Florida
Feast Down East
Feeding New York State
Food Animal Concerns Trust
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food Equality Initiative
Food System Innovations
FoodCorps
FOUR PAWS USA
FRESHFARM Markets
Friends of the Earth
Good Food Buffalo Coalition
Greener by Default
Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic
HEAL Food Alliance
Health Care Without Harm
Healthy Food America
Healthy Kids Happy Planet
Healthy Savannah
Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry
Hunger Free America
Hungry Planet
Illinois Food Justice Alliance

Illinois Public Health Institute
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Impact Justice
Indivisible Colorado
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Jump IN for Healthy KIDs
Just Strategies
Kiss the Ground
Kitchen Sync Strategies
Lady Freethinker
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College Columbia University
Marked By Covid
Mel Leaman Free Clinic
Mercy For Animals
Migrants and Minorities Alliance
National Association for Public Health Policy
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Center for Health Research
National Farm to School Network
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
NH Farm to School
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN)
Northeast Organic Association of NH
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey NOFA NJ
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ozark Akerz Regenerative Farm
Phoenix Zones Initiative
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
Plant Based Foods Institute
Plant Based Treaty
Plataforma ALTO
ProVeg US
Public Health Institute
Public Health Institute's Center for Wellness and Nutrition
Public Justice Center
Real Food Media
Reality Meets Science Inc.
Redstone Global Center for Prevention & Wellness
Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
Resolve to Save Lives
Resource Renewal Institute
Roots of Change
Rowan Food and Farm Network

Salmonberry Tribal Associates
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Science and Environmental Health Network
SEE (Social Eco Education)
Slow Food USA
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Terra Advocati
The Common Market
The Help Center NC
The Humane League
The Institute for Family Health/Bronx Health REACH
The Raven Corps
The Rockefeller Foundation
UFCW International Union
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unite North Metro Denver
United Farm Workers
Veggielution
Virginia Fresh Match
Voters For Animal Rights
Wallace Center at Winrock International
WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterspirit
WNC Farm to Table
Worker Justice Center of New York
World Animal Protection
YMCA of Coastal Georgia