

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2022

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Biden:

We write to you with great enthusiasm for the upcoming White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health to be hosted in September. As you consider proposals to end hunger in America, improve health and nutrition and promote exercise, we urge you to strongly encourage all federal agencies to make a vegetarian entrée available everywhere that federal government cafeterias are serving meals—from federal agencies, museums and national parks to prisons and military bases.

Plant-based meals have dramatic health benefits for our people, lowering the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Making a vegetarian entrée available at federal facilities will help federal workers and visitors get more protein and nutrients from plants.

Providing vegetarian entrées at federal facilities can also advance the health of our environment by reducing the federal government’s carbon footprint. American livestock farming is a significant contributor of greenhouse gas emissions.¹ Livestock and waste from animals together produce significant levels of methane emission, while fertilizers used to grow animal feed create substantial nitrous oxide emissions, which are 300 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Helping the population access plant-based options can help us lower our carbon footprint.

More and more Americans are interested in vegetarian options—especially younger Americans, who are seeking out healthier options that also reduce their carbon footprint. Although the Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities² recommends that federal facilities “offer protein foods from plants” and defines an entrée as “meat” or “meat alternate,” vegetarian entrées are still not routinely provided at federal facilities. Let’s help make nutritious and delicious vegetarian entrées more readily available to federal workers, visitors, and Americans.

Thanks to your leadership, our nation is working to end hunger and meet our country’s health and environmental challenges. To help ensure the federal government is leading through its own food practices, we urge you to make a vegetarian entrée available everywhere the federal government is serving our people a meal.

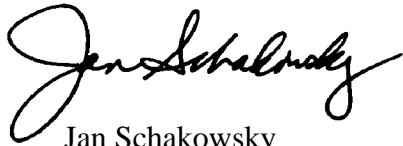
Very truly yours,



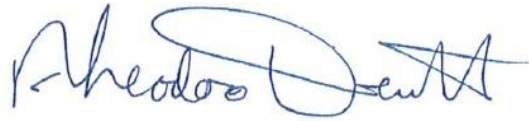
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

² https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/guidelines_for_federal_concessions_and_vending_operations.pdf



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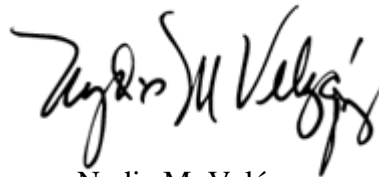
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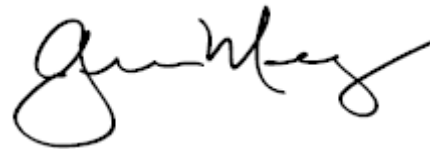
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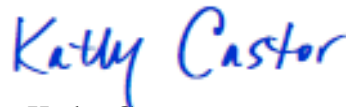
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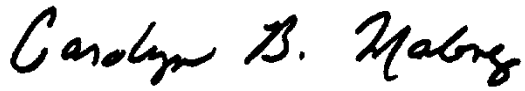
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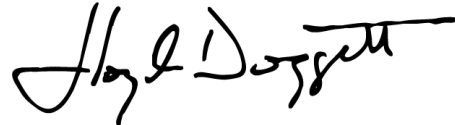
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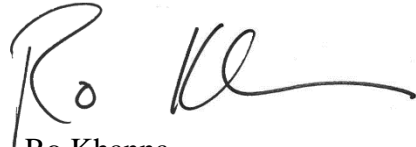
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