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October, 5, 2012
VIA EMAIL ONLY TO ALAN SHANNON
ALAN.SHANNON@fns.usda.gov

Dear Mr. Shannon:

I am writing to you in support of the retention of the new school meal nutrition standards.

At this crucial juncture in the national efforts to combat childhood obesity, this is not the time to ignore caloric levels. Childhood obesity has received national attention as it should. As you well know, if left unchecked, childhood obesity rates present a clear danger to the health and wellbeing of the United States.

I also write in support of the national, state and local efforts to increase access to fruits and vegetables in the diets of American school children. As you know lunch standards are a key element of increasing the servings of healthy local fruits and vegetables. And the addition of local fruits and vegetables to the diets of American school children is a win-win proposition for the country, its children and the American farmer.

Efforts to improve and maintain health school lunch choices are particularly important for lower income children as many of them live in areas where access to fresh fruits and vegetables can be problematic. So I offer this as yet another reason why a shift in standards right now seems ill-suited and unwise food policy for the U.S...

If I can elaborate on these points, please don't hesitate to call or email me. And, thank you for this opportunity to communicate with you on this important policy matter.

Sincerely yours,
/s Rich Schell/

Rich Schell

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