Lean & Green Kids

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May 18, 2010

Regarding: SUPPORT H.R. 4870. SUPPORT CNA with plant based vegetarian school lunch provision. SUPPORT Green Food Policies

Dear Representative George Miller,

Two of the most pressing issues facing our nation's youth are obesity and climate change. With this letter and the 150 signatures on the enclosed petitions, Lean and Green Kids strongly supports H.R. 4870, as well as a provision to be included into the Child Nutrition Act implementing daily plant-based vegetarian school lunch *entree* options, as part of the National School Lunch Program. Plant based vegetarian school lunches will:

- help to increase consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, which provide protection against diet related diseases, including obesity.
- reduce green house gas emissions, preserving our children's planet. A recent study released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization attributes 1/5 of all greenhouse gas emissions to livestock production; more than all transportation combined. A more recent study from Worldwatch Institute contributes one HALF of all greenhouse gases to livestock production.
- make the National School Lunch Program accessible to ALL American students, including those who abstain from consuming animal food for religious or health reasons.

In 2003 Lean and Green Kids spearheaded the effort to pass "The Healthy School Lunch Act," California Assembly Concurrent Resolution 16, calling for daily plant based vegetarian school lunch options to be made available to CA students. The resolution passed with astounding bi-partisan support and endorsements! Three states followed with similar resolutions – New York, Florida, and Hawaii.

In 2010, the time has come for our nation's leaders to pass a H.R. 4870. The time has come for our leaders to re-write the CNA to reflect inclusive and environmentally sustainable (green) food policies. Thank you for being a leader in this effort to help and heal the youth of America.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cole Gates, Director

We the undersigned, urge appropriate representatives in the United States Congress and Senate to include in the 2010 Re-authorization of the 2009/2010 Child Nutrition Act (CNA) new articles which would require <u>daily plant based</u> (meat/dairy free) vegetarian lunch ENTREES to be made available on the <u>regular</u> lunch menu in public schools, which utilize the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

We believe that daily plant based vegetarian school lunches will provide American children an increased opportunity to eat the recommended servings of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, while making the NSLP accessible to religious and racial minorities who abstain from animal foods.

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Decreasing the amount of animal products served in school lunches will also have a profound positive impact on the environment, with animal livestock accounting for approximately 1/3 of all green house gasses. We believe the CNA and NSLP must develop policies which strive to decrease the environmental impact, or "carbon footprint," of child nutrition programs.

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We the undersigned, urge appropriate representatives in the United States Congress and Senate to include in the 2010 Re-authorization of the 2009/2010 Child Nutrition Act (CNA) new articles which would require **daily plant based** (**meat/dairy free**) **vegetarian lunch ENTREES** to be made available on the <u>regular</u> lunch menu in public schools, which utilize the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

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