



April 13, 2011

Julie Brewer
Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division
Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 640
Alexandria, VA 22303-1594

Docket ID: FNS-2007-0038

Submitted online via: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Re: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

Dear Ms. Brewer:

We are submitting this letter in response to the proposed rule on nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is an alliance of grassroots farm and rural organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities. Our vision of agriculture is one where a safe, nutritious, ample, and affordable food supply is produced by family farmers who make a decent living pursuing their trade, while protecting the environment, and contributing to the strength and stability of their communities. Many NSAC organizations include agricultural producers that serve American children, their families, and their communities through farm to school and other alternative local good food marketing ventures.

By means of this letter, NSAC is endorsing the comments and recommendations submitted by the Community Food Security Coalition and the National Farm to School Network on the proposed rule. In particular, we advocate for including specific guidance to encourage and promote the procurement of local and regional foods for school meal programs. Doing so would not only enhance local and regional economies and improve nutritional outcomes but would also link our nation's schoolchildren with where their food comes from, aligning with the mission of the Department's *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative.

Thank you for considering our feedback for the final rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen J. Dombalis".

Helen J. Dombalis, Policy Associate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ferd Hoefner".

Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director