



February 12, 2018

Angela Kline, Director
Policy and Program Development
Child Nutrition Programs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Re: Requests for Information: Food Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs, via Regulations.gov portal

Dear Ms. Kline:

The Plant Based Foods Association (PBFA) is a trade association representing leading companies that produce a wide array of plant-based foods and beverages sold across the United States and globally. Our mission is to ensure a fair and competitive marketplace to meet the growing consumer demand for plant-based foods.

We are writing to encourage USDA to credit tempeh or soy tempeh in Child Nutrition Programs. Several PBFA members are leading manufacturers of tempeh.

We support the submitted comments of our colleagues at the Soyfoods Association of North America, along with PBFA members Lightlife Foods and SunRhize Foods in their support of tempeh as a credited food in Child Nutrition Programs.

Doing so supports the growing trend toward healthier and more sustainable alternatives to conventional meat at the “center of the plate”, as well as offers culturally diverse options for a wide array of dietary preferences.

According research by Lux Market, plant-based protein (in general) could represent one-third of overall protein by 2054. Tempeh is an important subset of this trend and it is also a traditional staple food used by many cultures for centuries.

In addition, we also support the Soyfoods Association comment that USDA should eliminate the onerous and unnecessary requirement that parents provide a note to allow their children to substitute soymilk for dairy milk in Child Nutrition Programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michele Simon
Executive Director