



March 16, 2006

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Harkin:

The Society for Nutrition Education (SNE) thanks you for the Senate Agriculture Committee's recent recommendation to the Senate Budget Committee that it make no substantive budget changes to agriculture programs until the reauthorization of the farm bill. SNE commends your efforts to protect the funding for important agriculture programs that are critical to the health of the nation's citizens and communities.

As Congress works to create a budget for Fiscal Year 2007, you and your colleagues have the opportunity to protect and enhance the vitality of American citizens by supporting initiatives to educate the country on how to live healthy lives. SNE appreciates the precedent set by your Committee's letter to budget writers in opposition of further cuts to our nation's vital nutrition programs in the upcoming fiscal year.

SNE is an international organization of 1100 nutrition education professionals dedicated to promoting healthful sustainable food choices and sharing a vision of healthy people in healthy communities. Our members conduct research in education, behavior, and communication; develop and disseminate innovative nutrition education strategies; and communicate information on food, nutrition, and health issues to students, professionals, policy makers, and the public.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to maintaining the viability and success of critical agriculture programs as the Fiscal Year 2007 budget is developed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Kendall".

Patricia Kendall, PhD  
President