



June 22, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-2307

Dear Chairman Peterson:

A bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition (HR 2297) was recently introduced by Representatives McGovern and Emerson and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Rules. The Society for Nutrition Education urges you to co-sponsor and support the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition for 2010.

The first such conference was held in 1969 and had a major impact on improving the effectiveness of federal programs in reducing food insecurity; improving nutrition, food safety and consumer protection; and expanding educational and job opportunities. (You can see the summary of recommendations and achievements at the NIH website: [http://www.nns.nih.gov/1969/executive\\_summary/executivesummary.htm](http://www.nns.nih.gov/1969/executive_summary/executivesummary.htm))

Many food assistance programs have continued to evolve to be more effective and efficient, yet much remains to be done to ensure food security and reduce diet-related chronic disease and obesity which disproportionately affect low-income and minority populations. Currently, more than one in ten Americans faces food insecurity. One in every five Americans participate at least one of 15 federal food assistance programs. Over 32 million people participate in the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. About 18 million children receive free/reduced price school lunches every day.

Many policies and programs are being implemented nationwide at local, state, and federal levels. Bringing together the key government agencies as well as leaders working on issues of hunger, food insecurity and nutrition at this time can help focus attention on successful collaborative programs as well as the continuing needs and emerging opportunities. It will be important to address the consequences of our current food system (such as agricultural production and access to healthy foods) on these issues as well.

Upon enactment of the bill, we urge you to make sure the Conference Policy Committee includes someone with experience in food and nutrition education and that a number of the invited conference delegates also have similar professional backgrounds. SNE can assist you in identifying committee members who have expertise in nutrition education programs and policies. Please feel free to contact SNE for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Archuleta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martha Archuleta, PhD, RD  
President, Society for Nutrition Education

**The Society for Nutrition Education (SNE)** is composed of nutrition education professionals sharing a vision of healthy people in healthy communities, through the promotion of healthful food choices and lifestyle behaviors at the individual, community, and policy levels. 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.



June 22, 2009

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
House Agriculture Committee  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3603

Dear Representative Lucas:

A bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition (HR 2297) was recently introduced by Representatives McGovern and Emerson and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Rules. The Society for Nutrition Education urges you to co-sponsor and support the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition for 2010.

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