



**Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™**

July 30, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of our 57,000 members, the School Nutrition Association (SNA) thanks you for your continued commitment to the nutritional health and well-being of our nation's children.

SNA read with interest recently that the Department has developed a short-term relief strategy for addressing some of the issues resulting from trade retaliation against the United States. Specifically, regarding the three-part, \$12 billion agricultural aid plan authorized by President Trump, we are writing to share our support for part two – the “food purchase and distribution program” that will purchase fruit, nuts, rice, beef, pork and dairy products from U.S. producers for redistribution to federal nutrition programs.

Realizing that the specifics of the aid plan are subject to the federal rulemaking process—under which SNA will submit formal comments—we wanted to signify SNA's early support for this effort. As you know, the school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and many others, are among the most important food safety nets provided to our nation's students. Given the current climate and the urgent need to assist our American farmers, it would be most appreciated -- as you consider the administration and implementation of this relief plan -- that these foods are targeted and directed in the most meaningful way to help serve our nation's school children.

Thank you again for your continued support of our child nutrition programs. SNA stands ready to assist you and the Department as you move forward on this effort.

Sincerely,

Gay Anderson, SNS  
President

Patricia Montague, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer