

August 26, 2021

The Honorable David Scott
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott,

Thank you for making climate change a priority in the agriculture portion of the budget reconciliation bill. As organizations that have supported a federal investment in alternative protein research, we are writing to convey our support for the inclusion of a \$200 million investment dedicated for alternative protein (i.e., meat, dairy, and eggs made from plant-based or cellular agriculture) research at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Alternative proteins have a fraction of the direct emissions of conventional animal agriculture, and because they also require much less land, they can decrease pressure on forests and free up land for other climate mitigation efforts, including regenerative agriculture and ranching practices, natural climate solutions, production of renewable energy, and protection for biodiversity.¹

The United States is home to the top plant-based, cultivated (also known as cell-based or cultured), and precision fermentation companies in the world, but we will fall behind if the U.S. government does not support these game-changing industries with funding for open-access research and development. Other countries are actively supporting the development of plant-based and cultivated meat and seafood. For example, the European Union includes alternative proteins as a key research area in Horizon Europe's \$12 billion research and innovation program,² and Singapore is investing \$144 million into a variety of next-generation technologies intended to bolster their bioeconomies, including cultivated meat.³ Canada, the Netherlands, India, Israel, and Japan are making similar investments.

Although private investment in alternative proteins is growing, open-access public research is crucial to accelerate growth. Public research will have a significantly broader impact on innovation and the economy by creating jobs and generating new opportunities to feed Americans and the world, rather than primarily benefiting specific companies. For example, USDA-funded research at the University of Missouri was the basis of the technology used in Beyond Meat's first products and helped form the foundation for the company's ongoing approach to innovation.

Using science and markets to address big problems and help U.S. agriculture to continue to feed the world is a bipartisan endeavor, earning consistent support from both Republicans and Democrats. Secretary of

¹ Climate Advisers & the Good Food Institute, *A global protein transition is necessary to keep warming below 1.5°C*, available at gfi.org/climate.

² European Commission, *A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system* (May 20, 2020), https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-annex-farm-fork-green-deal_en.pdf.

³ Yoolim Lee & Joyce Koh, *Singapore Backs Lab-Grown Meat, Robots in \$535 Million Push*, Bloomberg (Mar. 27, 2019), <https://bloom.bg/2FI4PKu>.

Agriculture Tom Vilsack has explained why, noting that “studies have shown that every dollar invested in agricultural research creates \$20 in economic activity.”⁴

Alternative proteins can provide a market-based solution to several of the world’s most pressing issues by meeting growing demand for meat and seafood with plant-based, cultivated, and fermentation-derived options. Alternative proteins significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promise to alleviate pressure on land, forests, water availability, and fisheries.^{5,6} Alternative proteins provide additional public health benefits, including significantly decreasing the risks of foodborne illness, antibiotic resistance, and zoonotic diseases.⁷

Thank you for your consideration of this request for \$200 million to support alternative protein research via ARS.

Sincerely,

The Good Food Institute	The Breakthrough Institute	Food Tank
Food Solutions Action	Brighter Green	Gathered Foods Corporation
50by40	Califia Farms	Hooray Foods
Air Protein	Center for the Blue Economy	Hungry Planet
American Pulse Association	Climate Advisers	Impossible Foods, Inc.
Artemys Foods	Cultured Decadence	IndieBio
Atlantic Natural Foods	Dr. Bronner’s Magic Soaps	Infinite Foods
Beyond Meat	Eat for the Earth	Kiverdi
Big Idea Ventures	Environmental Working Group	Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
BlueNalu, Inc.	Food Frontier	Mission Barns

⁴ Press Release, *USDA Secretary Announces Creation of Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research*, USDA (July 23, 2014), <https://bit.ly/37u0Vkj>.

⁵ The Good Food Institute, *Growing Meat Sustainably: The Cultivated Meat Revolution* (Oct. 2019), <https://bit.ly/2XCITaQ>.

⁶ The Good Food Institute, *Plant-Based Meat for a Growing World* (2019), <https://www.gfi.org/files/pb-meat-sustainability.pdf>.

⁷ The Good Food Institute, *Open Access Research is Needed for Plant-Based and Cultivated Meat* (2020), <https://bit.ly/2My7exA>.

Mission Blue	Seattle Food Tech, Inc. DBA Rebellyous Foods	Unovis Asset Management
Nature's Fynd	Stray Dog Capital	UPSIDE Foods (formerly Memphis Meats)
New Age Meats	The Tofurky Company	USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
No Evil Foods	Trophic	A Well-Fed World
Plant Based Food Association	Unilever	Wildtype