



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

May 23, 2016

Board of Education
San Francisco Unified School District
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear School Board Members:

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the Board Resolution calling for the adoption and implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Standards (Resolution No. 164-26A3). In our reports, *Locally Nourished* and *Healthy Food Within Reach* we highlighted how public agencies can support a regional food economy, environmentally-friendly agricultural practices, and healthier diets through the terms of their procurement contracts.

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), developed by the Center for Good Food Purchasing, provides a clear framework for analyzing and improving the environmental, social, and health impacts of food procured by the school district and other public agencies. SFUSD has already taken important strides in improving the nutrition and quality of the food that it provides students, and by adopting the standards of the GFPP, the district will be able to better track the impact of its multi-million dollar food contracts.

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) adopted the GFPP in 2012 has already demonstrated how this model can drive significant changes. According to the Center for Good Food Purchasing, in 2013, LAUSD purchased over \$50 million from businesses within 200 miles, including about \$12 million in produce coming from local growers. Local food processors and distributors are providing more food for LAUSD and therefore have been able to create over 150 new well-paying food chain jobs. One distributor, who serves over 300 school districts in the Southwest, has replaced conventional wheat with sustainably-produced wheat grown by family farms in the Central Valley.

By adopting the Good Food Purchasing Program, SFUSD has the opportunity to join Los Angeles in setting a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a more, sustainable, fair, and humane food economy. SFUSD also has the potential to be a role model for other public institutions in San Francisco that serve thousands of meals daily, such as the city's hospitals and jails.

For all these reasons, SPUR encourages you to vote in support of the Good Food Purchasing Program. If there is any additional information about I can get you about SPUR's support for this resolution, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Eli Zigas
Food and Agriculture Policy Director

CC: Orla O'Keeffe, Executive Director, Policy and Operations, SFUSD