

October 31, 2016

Board of Education  
Oakland Unified School District  
1000 Broadway, Suite 680  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Board of Education Directors:

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. 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.

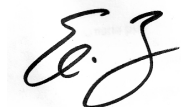
The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), developed by the Center for Good Food Purchasing, provides a clear framework for analyzing and improving the environmental, social, and health impacts of food procured by the school district. OUSD has already shown leadership by improving the nutrition and quality of the food that it provides students as well as increasing its procurement of locally grown food. By adopting the standards of the GFPP, the district will be able to better track and increase the impact of its \$8 million food budget.

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) adopted the GFPP in 2012 and 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, OUSD 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. OUSD also has the potential to be a role model for other public institutions in the Bay Area that serve thousands of meals daily – including hospitals, jails, and other school districts – especially through its clear timetable of commitments.

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: Jennifer LeBarre, Director, Student Nutrition Services, OUSD