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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6001

(202) 225-2171

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March 4, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretaries Vilsack and Burwell:

We write to you today regarding your ongoing deliberations related to the recommendations received from your Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

As you are aware, considerable concern has been raised from across the spectrum of food producer and processor organizations. We have raised questions in hearings and no doubt other correspondence from Members of Congress will follow.

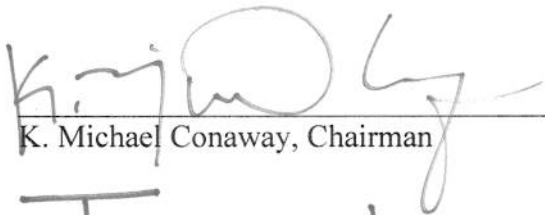
In light of the complexity of the issues raised by this advisory committee, the seemingly unprecedented expansion of the scope of their recommendations beyond what has traditionally been associated with dietary recommendations, and the implication these recommendations would have if not fully reviewed and vetted by the public, we ask that the comment period on these recommendations be extended to a full 120 days from the 45 originally proposed by your agencies.

We also recognize that the comments being developed by stakeholder groups will likely include scientific studies and other evidence that observers assert had been ignored by the advisory

committee and therefore expect that these comments will be fully reviewed and considered by your agencies as you develop your proposed dietary guidelines.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation,

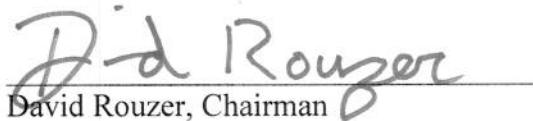
Sincerely,



K. Michael Conaway, Chairman



Jackie Walorski, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Nutrition



David Rouzer, Chairman
Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign
Agriculture