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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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September 12, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The Committee on Education and the Workforce is focused on supporting states, school districts, and nonprofit and private organizations in their effort to provide access to nutritious food. As part of this effort, the committee is conducting oversight to ensure federal agencies are providing parents, school leaders, industry, and other stakeholders with ample opportunity to be informed about and provide comments on regulations being proposed by federal agencies. We are seeking a better understanding of the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) processes for providing notice and communicating with stakeholders about its regulatory proposals.

Please contact our staff **no later than September 19, 2013** to discuss your agency's work to provide a written response to the following requests relating to each regulation issued by USDA since January 20, 2009:

1. The number of days the public was initially allowed to make comments on each regulation;
2. The date upon which the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) received informally and formally each regulation;
3. The date upon which OMB returned each regulation to USDA;
4. An explanation of how USDA determined the length of its period for public comment for each regulation; and
5. An explanation of any extensions of the period for public comment granted for each regulation.

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
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If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Mandy Schaumburg or Joe Wheeler of the committee staff at (202) 225-4527.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce



TODD ROKITA
Chairman
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education

Enclosure

CC: The Honorable George Miller, Senior Democratic Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce