

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



August 21, 2014

Mr. Lonnie Whitaker
Food Distribution Supervisor
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Whitaker:

We would like to welcome you to your new position at OSPI and to encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to take part in a pilot project that could improve school nutrition while providing economic stimulus to Washington's many agricultural producers.

With over 300 crops produced in Washington each year, our state is home to some of the most diverse and abundant agricultural production in the nation. Yet our schools continue to depend significantly on out-of-state growers for school meals as a result of inflexibility in federal entitlement funding for the purchasing of school food.

The USDA has released a request for applications for the newly-announced *Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables*. The pilot project would not change the amount of USDA entitlement funds received by schools, but it would provide greater flexibility for securing unprocessed fruits and vegetables while allowing State Distributing Agencies (SDAs) and School Food Authorities (SFAs) to account for geographical preference in the vendor selection process. This pilot would unlock a portion of the USDA entitlement dollars for use in farm-to-school efforts already underway in Washington and help school districts to grow these efforts which strengthen local economies while connecting students to the origins of their food.

To be considered for participation in this pilot project, **Washington's SDA must submit an application no later than September 30**. Pilot project details, including application guidance and procedures, are enclosed.

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Please let us know if we can be helpful in any way. We look forward to working with you to improve school nutrition and promote local growers in Washington state.

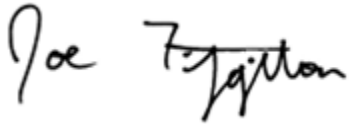
Best regards,



Representative Marcus Riccelli
3rd Legislative District



Representative Tana Senn
41st Legislative District



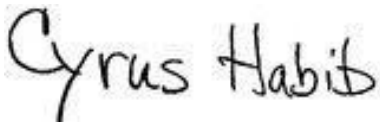
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
34th Legislative District



Representative Jeff Morris
40th Legislative District



Representative June Robinson
38th Legislative District



Representative Cyrus Habib
48th Legislative District



Speaker Frank Chopp
43rd Legislative District



Representative Gerry Pollet
46th Legislative District



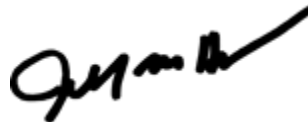
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45th Legislative District



Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos
37th Legislative District



Representative Dave Hayes
10th Legislative District



Representative Jeff Holy
6th Legislative District

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Representative Cindy Ryu
32nd Legislative District



Representative Jim Moeller
49th Legislative District



Representative Sherry Appleton
23rd Legislative District



Representative Larry Springer
45th Legislative District

encl: USDA Request for Application Guidance and Procedures
cc: The Honorable Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ms. Donna Parsons, Director of Child Nutrition Services, OSPI