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September 14, 2020

Associate Director Brian McCormack
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Room 269
Washington, D.C. 20502
Brian.V.McCormack2@omb.eop.gov

Dear Mr. McCormack:

The Good Food Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that accelerates protein innovation to sustainably feed the world's growing population, requests that the Administration address the need for alternative protein research in the President's Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal. This kind of research will help build the bioeconomy, create jobs, and provide more choices for consumers in the marketplace.

Last year, we had the pleasure of meeting with Ruth Saunders and Nora Stein in your office to discuss the role of alternative proteins alongside traditional meat production and the importance of research into the science of creating meat from plants and growing meat directly from cells.

Other countries are making investments in these fields, and just last week, the National Science Foundation announced a \$3.5 million grant to U.C. Davis for cultivated meat research. The United States has the opportunity to continue to lead the world in this emerging market sector if we fund significantly more open-access research now. Specifically, we request that you direct \$50 million in existing research funds to the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and/or the National Science Foundation for research in plant protein, cultivated meat, and precision fermentation.

Investing in agricultural research has a multiplier effect in terms of job creation. Studies suggest that a dollar spent on agricultural research will yield approximately 20 dollars in economic activity. Research into alternative proteins in particular will help the many companies that have recently launched into this sector and will help to create many more jobs, adding to the many highly skilled jobs this sector already creates. Publicly funded research will employ researchers and provide workforce training essential for the bioeconomy, and will employ even more researchers at the companies that use and build on the publicly funded science.

This request aligns with the Administration's Fiscal Year 2022 research priorities, specifically the American Bioeconomy, including engineering biology and agriculture, and R&D that "improves the safety and resilience of American individuals, businesses, communities, government, and society." I am

attaching a submission we made to the USDA that explains the myriad benefits of alternative protein research.

The United Nations projects more than a 50 percent increase in global meat consumption by 2050, and finding new ways to produce meat domestically will ensure that our nation stays well fed and will provide export opportunities for American farmers and entrepreneurs.

As shown by Member requests for FY21, Congress supports open-access research that will advance alternative proteins. We hope that the Administration will include these vital provisions in the President's FY22 budget proposal.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further with you either by phone or video teleconference. Thank you again for your time and attention—we appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Almy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jessica Almy
Director of Policy

cc: Ruth Saunders, Ruth.D.Saunders@omb.eop.gov
Nora Stein, Nora_Stein@omb.eop.gov

About GFI

The Good Food Institute is a global nonprofit building a sustainable, healthy, and just food system. Our scientists, entrepreneurs, lawyers, and policy experts are harnessing the power of food innovation and markets to accelerate the transition of the world's food system to alternative proteins, including plant-based and cultivated meat.