

June 7th 2022

Honorable Assemblymember Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for \$5M for Alternative Protein R&D at UC Campuses

Dear Assemblymember Phil Ting and Senator Nancy Skinner,

On behalf of the following California companies we write to respectfully request your support of \$5 million dollars to the University of California System (UC System), to be divided between UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UCLA to support ongoing efforts dedicated to the research and development of plant-based and cultivated meats in California.

California is home to more than 80 alternative protein companies—some of which are the top companies in the world. These companies use plants, animal cell cultivation, or fermentation to create the characteristics of conventional animal meat. The combination of agriculture and technological innovation has made California a desirable location for alternative protein companies, but we must support the development of these innovative foods with funding for open-access research or we risk falling behind other nations that are making alternative proteins a top priority.

Industry experts have identified key research gaps where public research and development can most effectively drive growth in the alternative protein sector. Although private investment in alternative proteins is growing significantly (with several of the most successful alternative protein companies founded upon publicly funded research), these research areas remain underexplored. The requested \$5 million is needed to support the basic and applied research required to fuel technological progress and allow the industry to scale, creating new jobs, and contributing to local economies.

Providing this funding will help accelerate growth across the alternative protein ecosystem, expand the menu of sustainable protein options, and increase food security. The world's appetite for protein is growing while planetary resources are increasingly constrained. The emerging alternative protein sector has the potential to meet this demand with California-grown, innovative protein technologies that produce more

food using fewer resources. Funding this research will create new revenue streams for California's farmers, economic opportunities for California entrepreneurs, and a market-based path to increasing the nation's food security.

We strongly encourage your support for this budget request.

Sincerely,

Greg Murphy
Director, Corporate Development
& Strategic Partnerships
BlueNalu, Inc.

Justin Kolbeck
Co-Founder & CEO
Wildtype Inc.

Danny O'Malley
President & Founder
Before the Butcher

Michael Selden
Co-Founder & CEO
Finless Foods

Lisa Dyson
Founder & CEO
Air Protein

Andrew Noyes
VP, Head of Global Communications &
Public Affairs
Eat Just

David Kay
Director of Communication
UPSIDE Foods

Sri Artham
Founder
Hooray Foods

Joshua March
Co-founder & CEO
SCiFi Foods (*formerly Artemys Foods*)

Kerry Song
Founder & CEO
Abbot's Butcher Inc.

Patricia Bubner, PhD
CEO & Co-Founder
Orbillion

Eitan Fischer
CEO
Mission Barnes

Nathaniel Gorence
Chief of Staff
Impossible Foods



BEYOND MEAT™

Beyond Meat

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom

Dee Dee Meyers, Senior Advisor and Director, GO-Biz

Assemblymember Ash Kalra