

May 3, 2021

To: Brenda Bacon

Chair, Food Code Adoption Workgroup

Collaborative Representative, Conference for Food Protection

From: John Zimmermann

Vice President, QA & Food Safety

First Watch Restaurants, Inc.

Re: Letter of Support

First Watch Restaurants, Inc. is pleased to support and encourage the adoption the most recent version of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's model Food Code by all retail food regulatory programs.

Benefits of unified adherence to the current model FDA Food Code by retail food regulatory entities (regardless of name) include:

- Reduction of complexity and better ensures compliance, affording small and medium sized business the opportunity to expand across borders without worry about "different rules";
- Empowerment of industry through jurisdictional reciprocity by enhancing the whole of our food safety network;
- Elimination of redundant processes for establishing food safety criteria; and
- Establishment of a more standardized approach to inspections and audits of food establishments.

Staying current with the Food Code is the choice to embrace the best scientific practice available as the tools to serve our mission of protecting our communities from foodborne illness that can potentially cause devastating health consequences and financial losses.

First Watch Restaurants Inc. encourages members of the food industry to support retail food regulatory organizations' efforts in supporting the timely adoption of the most recent version of the model FDA Food Code. We also offer our support in encouraging other members of the industry to become supporters of uniform adoption of the Food Code.

John Zimmermann

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