

May 6, 2021

To: Brenda Bacon
Chair, Food Code Adoption Workgroup
Collaborative Representative, Conference for Food Protection

From: Keri Ptak
Environmental Health Officer
Teller County Public Health & Environment

Re: Letter of Support

The Teller County Environmental Health Department is pleased to support and encourage the adoption of the most recent version of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's model Food Code by all retail food regulatory programs.

Our county has received positive support of adopting the 2013 FDA Food Code, as many of our food handlers relocated from other states that have already become familiar with those safety guidelines. 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.

Teller County Public Health & Environment encourages all retail food regulatory organizations to join us in these efforts in supporting the timely adoption of the most recent version of the model FDA Food Code.

Keri Ptak

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