



National Environmental Health Association

May 24, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) supports and encourages the adoption of the most recent version of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) *Food Code* by retail food regulatory programs. The complete adoption of the current FDA *Food Code* in retail food establishments will reduce the incidence of foodborne illnesses.

The benefits of unified adherence to the current FDA *Food Code* by retail food regulatory entities include:

- Access to standardized, evidence-based guidance that local regulatory programs can use to mitigate risk factors that cause foodborne illness.
- Reduction of complexity to better ensure compliance, affording small- and medium-sized businesses the opportunity to expand across state borders without worry about different food safety rules and regulations.
- Empowerment of the retail food industry by enhancing the scope of the nation's food safety network.
- Elimination of redundant processes for establishing food safety criteria.
- Establishment of a more standardized approach to inspections and audits of food establishments.

As the retail food industry evolves, the FDA *Food Code* is updated with evidence-based methods for combatting risk factors related to foodborne illness. Staying current with the FDA *Food Code* embraces the best scientific practices available as the tools to protect our communities from foodborne illnesses that cause devastating health consequences and financial losses.

Our Association supports the complete adoption and implementation of the FDA *Food Code* by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governmental agencies to promote the most current knowledge on food safety.

Thank you for your leadership in this important matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T. Dyjack".

David T. Dyjack, Dr.PH, CIH
Chief Executive Officer
National Environmental Health Association