



Kari Hamerschlag  
Deputy Director, Food and Agriculture Program  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
1150 Allston Way  
Berkeley, CA 94702

September 20, 2019

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Letter of SUPPORT for Council File 11-1678-S3 to require vegan protein options to be sold at certain Los Angeles City concessionaires**

Dear Honorable Council President Wesson and Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of Friends of the Earth U.S. and our more than 10,500 members and supporters in Los Angeles, we are writing to express our strong support for Council File 11-1678-S3 to require vegan protein options to be sold at certain Los Angeles City concessionaires.

Plant-based foods are increasingly in demand for health, environmental, and ethical reasons. Within the past two years, plant-based food retail has grown by 20 percent. Plant-based milks have grown by 9% in comparison to a decline of 6% for cow's milk. Additionally, plant-based meats have grown by 24% in comparison to the 2% growth of animal meats.

Eating more plant-based foods is essential for Los Angeles to meet its climate goals. Agriculture is a major driver of climate change, and animal products have significantly higher emissions than plant-based alternatives. Globally, the livestock sector accounts for at least 14.5% of total GHG emissions, which is more emissions than the entire transportation sector.

A pilot analysis of Oakland Unified School District conducted by Friends of the Earth documented a 14 percent reduction in carbon emissions and a 6 percent reduction in water use as a result of the district reducing its meat and dairy purchases over the course of two years. Student meal satisfaction increased by 23 percent, demonstrating that it is possible to serve meals that are better for health, better for the climate, and still delicious.

Increasing the availability of plant-based options is also crucial from a health perspective. Meat and dairy-heavy diets are placing an undue burden on our health care system. High meat consumption, especially of red and processed meat, has been linked to many of our deadliest—and most costly—diseases, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and certain forms of cancer. Chronic diseases related to our diet and lifestyle now account for 7 in 10 U.S. deaths. Ninety percent of the \$3.5 trillion we spend on healthcare in this country are for people with at least one chronic health condition. If we fail to shift our dietary patterns, chronic disease rates and health care spending will continue to soar.

In summary, we support Council File 11-1678-S3 to require vegan protein options to be sold at certain Los Angeles City concessionaires. By offering more vegan options, Los Angeles can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions while improving the health of residents and visitors. Thank you for your consideration of our position. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like sources or more information.

Sincerely,  
Kari Hamerschlag