

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretaries Vilsack and Burwell:

We write to you today regarding the 2015 Scientific Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. As the Dietary Guidelines for Americans inform nutritional policy in federal programs and public recommendations for a healthy diet, it is vital that the Dietary Guidelines are based on sound science and remain independent, unbiased, and nonpolitical in nature.

This advisory committee report included recommendations that are notably different from previous guidelines, which will require additional time to develop thoughtful feedback.

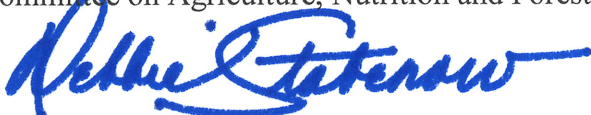
To ensure both agencies have the benefit of hearing from the full range of stakeholders, we request a 30 day extension of the comment period, from 45 days to 75 days. The additional time would allow constituents to review the report more carefully before submitting questions and comments, as well as to provide well-crafted, constructive, and thorough comments.

An extension would be extremely beneficial to help continue the transparent process and ensure that the final report is of the utmost scientific integrity.

We thank you in advance for considering our request.



Chairman Pat Roberts
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

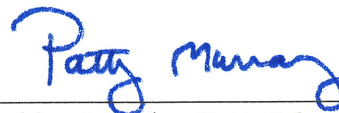


Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

Sincerely,



Chairman Lamar Alexander
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions



Ranking Member Patty Murray
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions