

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Blanche Lambert Lincoln
Chairman
Senate Agriculture Committee
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Committee
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lincoln and Chambliss:

In the spirit of cooperation that is the tradition of the Child Nutrition Act reauthorization, food and beverage companies and health and education advocacy groups have come together in support of updating the national nutrition standards for foods sold through vending machines, school stores, and a la carte on all school campuses throughout the extended school day. We strongly support the carefully negotiated provision based on S. 934/H.R. 1324 that you have included in the 2010 child nutrition reauthorization bill.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is in the process of updating the school meal standards, and Congress needs to allow USDA to take care of the rest of school foods. The current national nutrition standards for foods sold outside of school meals are outdated and do not reflect the current marketplace nor updated nutrition science. Therefore, we believe new standards are needed to protect the integrity of the school lunch program and the health of all children in all states.

Thank you for your continued leadership on child nutrition. We stand ready to work with you to support good nutrition in schools.

Respectfully,

American Beverage Association

The Coca-Cola Company

Mars, Inc.

Nestlé USA

PepsiCo Inc.

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Diabetes Association

American Dietetic Association

American Heart Association

Center for Science in the Public Interest

National PTA