



December 30, 2014

Richard D. Olson, M.D., M.P.H.
Designated Federal Officer, 2015 DGAC
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
OASH/HHS
1101 Wootton Parkway
Suite LL100 Tower Building
Rockville, MD 20852

Angie Tagtow, M.S., R.D.
Executive Director, Nutrition Guidance and Analysis Division
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1034
Alexandria, VA 22302

RE: Comments to Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Regarding the Removal of Lean Meat as a Component of a Dietary Pattern Associated with Positive Health Outcomes; and Recommendation that a Pattern Lower in Animal-Based Foods is More Health Promoting and is Associated with Lesser Environmental Impact

Dear Dr. Olson and Ms. Tagtow:

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) is pleased to submit comments on the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Subcommittee 2's recommendations concerning the removal of lean meat as a component of a healthy diet.

NPPC conducts public-policy outreach on behalf of its 43 affiliated state association members, enhancing opportunities for the success of U.S. pork producers and other industry stakeholders by establishing the U.S. pork industry as a consistent and responsible supplier of high-quality and nutritious pork to the domestic and world markets.

U.S. pork producers are proud of the role they play in ensuring that Americans enjoy a wholesome and nutritious diet; we feel strongly that any recommendation by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee that would remove our product from the dietary guidelines on the basis that it is unhealthy and unsustainable would be ill-considered, counterproductive and not based on the preponderance of scientific evidence.

During the course of its deliberations, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Subcommittee 2 reviewed a significant body of scientific evidence showing both the nutritive value of lean meats to a balanced diet and the preference of the American

population to include meat products in its diet. These attributes are certainly true with regard to pork—in addition to being an excellent and economical source of protein, pork is an excellent source of thiamin, selenium, protein, niacin, vitamin B6 and phosphorus and a good source of riboflavin, zinc and potassium. Furthermore, U.S. pork producers have worked diligently over the past several decades to produce a product that is leaner and lower in saturated fat to better serve consumers. Americans of diverse cultural backgrounds recognize this by consistently and consciously incorporating pork into their diets. These attributes—supported by sound scientific evidence—do not appear to be reflected in the subcommittee’s recommendations.

NPPC also strongly encourages the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to reconsider its December 15, 2014, statement that “*dietary pattern higher in plant-based foods, such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, and lower in animal-based foods is more health promoting and is associated with lesser environmental impact than is the current average U.S. diet.*” U.S. pork producers take the sustainability of their operations very seriously and work hard on a daily basis to produce a product that is both efficient and environmentally responsible. They are an integral part of the larger agricultural industry, which works cohesively to ensure the availability of a sustainable food supply to the American population. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee’s suggestion that reducing (if not eliminating) animal-based foods in the American diet will have a positive environmental impact cannot be supported by broad scientific or other evidence.

In summary, NPPC urges the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to respect the work of America’s livestock producers in producing nutritious and wholesome meat products that both contribute to the health of and are appreciated by the American population and to ensure that lean meat remains a component of the U.S. dietary guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H".

Howard Hill, DVM
President
National Pork Producers Council

cc: The Honorable Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture