



Kate MacKenzie, MS, RD
Executive Director
Mayor's Office of Food Policy

253 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10007
212 442 4492 Tel.
kmackenzie@cityhall.nyc.gov

September 15, 2023

Liz Specht, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Science and Technology
Good Food Institute
1380 Monroe Street NW
Washington, DC 20010

RE: Letter of Support for a Center of Excellence in Sustainable Proteins at Cornell University

Dear Dr. Specht,

As executive director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy, where we provide guidance, oversight and advisement to advance food policy for the City of New York, I was very excited to learn about your initiative to fund Centers of Excellence in Alternative Proteins, and the fact that a team from Cornell University is working towards establishing such a center. This would be an incredible opportunity not only for Cornell and the State of New York but also for the entire country. I believe that the movement towards identifying and helping advance consumer access and adoption of new sources of sustainable food is crucial for the US and the entire planet because this will help us all alleviate some of the pressure on the planetary resources and climate.

I cannot think of a better partner for such a Center than Cornell University. Their researchers have the technical expertise in conducting groundbreaking, impactful work, and the unique ability to convert their work into applications and fuel workforce development. I have seen this with the recently established Cornell Tech campus on Roosevelt Island, where Cornell joined efforts with Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to bring tech solutions to commercialization, and they already had significant success in doing this in the short few years since Cornell Tech opened. This brought new businesses, jobs, and economic growth to New York City and beyond. I am confident that a new Center of Excellence in Sustainable Proteins at Cornell University will follow a similar path and also integrate with our own initiatives to establish New York City as a leading hub for food innovation, particularly in alternative proteins. Establishing such a center in New York State, close to the financial and venture capital of the nation, is also likely to help attract additional significant private and public investment to the Center and multiply your initial investment in the field of alternative proteins.

I support enthusiastically Cornell's initiative and its bid to establish this Center of Excellence. I do not doubt that the Center will become very successful and will help establish the US globally as a highly impactful innovator in the agri-food system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate MacKenzie", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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