

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

Our respective Committees have great interest in the framework that will be established to regulate agricultural cell-based food products. While we appreciate the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) interest in overseeing aspects of the regulation of these innovative products, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also has an obvious role in ensuring their safety and accurate labeling. We are aware that the White House Domestic Policy Council called a meeting with the two agencies after FDA announced their intent to hold a public meeting on this topic. We are disappointed that after the White House meeting, FDA is still proceeding with the meeting on July 12th without USDA involvement as outlined in the agenda released by FDA.

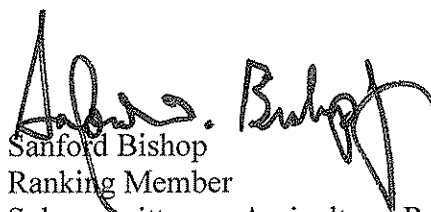
Cell-based food technologies and products are an emerging science, and both agencies should be working collaboratively on a scientific approach towards a framework to regulate these products. Our expectation was that the White House meeting would direct USDA and FDA to coordinate on this issue, including the July 12th public meeting. However, that was not the result based upon FDA's published agenda. USDA should be included in the meeting Thursday; however, if that is not possible due to time constraints, there should be a follow up public meeting with both agencies as equal participants.

Moving forward, we would request that as the Administration continues to evaluate these technologies, USDA and FDA be required to work together to ensure the best available science is used in a fair and open process to protect food safety and accurate labeling standards in a manner that reflects USDA's longstanding role as the nation's regulator of meat and poultry safety. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

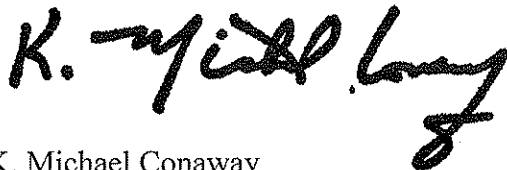
Sincerely,



Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug,
Administration, and Related Agencies



Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies



K. Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee



Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee