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I strongly support the continuation of the USDA Farm to School Census. It is a vital tool for advancing the farm to school movement and remains the only nationally representative source of data on this work.

I work for a national nonprofit that partners with public school districts to strengthen the nutrition, quality, and procurement of their school meal programs—and farm to school is central to that mission. As someone who works closely with districts across the country, I've seen firsthand how the Census provides valuable insight into the challenges, opportunities, and evolving trends in local procurement and education.

For example, the finding that school food authorities spent over \$1.8 billion on local foods in SY 2022–2023 highlights the critical role that school districts play in supporting local economies and American farmers and ranchers. Our organization relies on this data to better understand and serve our district partners as they expand and strengthen farm to school initiatives.

If farming is the backbone of America, and students are our future, then data is the tool that helps us invest wisely in both. The Farm to School Census is not just data collection—it's a roadmap for building a healthier, more resilient agricultural and educational ecosystem. I urge you to continue funding and supporting this essential program.