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Please share your ideas/stories:

SNAC International is the international trade association of the snack food industry representing snack manufacturers and suppliers. SNAC International represents over 400 companies worldwide, including but not limited to manufacturers of potato chips, tortilla chips, cereal snacks, pretzels, popcorn, kettle corn, cheese snacks, snack crackers, meat snacks, pork rinds, snack nuts, party mix, corn snacks, pellet snacks, fruit snacks, snack bars, granola, snack cakes, cookies, and various other snacks.

We are pleased the White House is convening the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and look forward to participating in the goal of re-imagining our nation's food system to end hunger, improve nutrition, and reduce diet-related chronic diseases.

Below you will find information on how our association and member companies are addressing key White House pillars.

Improve food access and affordability:

SNAC International and our members have long worked to improve food access by supporting federal feeding programs and taking action in our local communities.

At the federal level, SNAC supports improved access to and increased funding for federal food nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the USDA Child Nutrition Programs, which include the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. Further enhancement and expansion of these programs will improve nutrition security for Americans who need it most.

Specific to SNAP, SNAC supports preserving consumer food choices in this program. We believe choice is fundamental to SNAP, both in preserving its cost-effectiveness and supporting the dignity of its beneficiaries.

At the local level, SNAC International supports the Arlington Food Assistance Center - a food bank near our headquarters. This group currently distributes groceries to families in need, including 1/3 of recipients who are children. By providing regular donations, SNAC positively impacts the community in

which we live. Our member companies also provide significant monetary and food donations to local food banks in the communities in which they operate. Through this charitable giving, the snacking industry helps to feed our neighbors in need by providing dignified access to nutritious supplemental groceries.

Integrate nutrition and health:

SNAC and our members prioritize the role of nutrition in overall health. While the types of snacks available from our members represent a broad array of choices from nutrient-dense to indulgent, the snack food industry continues to innovate to provide whole grain, reduced sodium, reduced sugar, reduced-fat, and whole-food “better for you” and “healthy” options in a variety of portion sizes.

Recent innovations include pulse and legume snacks, such as chickpea and lentil-based chips that are available as baked products with few added fats. They also include dehydrated fruit and vegetable chip products low in added sugar, sodium, and fat and are a good source of other essential micronutrients. Many snack foods that have grown in popularity in the marketplace, such as ready-to-eat popcorn, are also high in whole grains. In addition, snack options such as dried meat snacks can also be high in protein.

Snacking is an important part of the American diet and can provide opportunities for consumption of essential vitamins, minerals, and nutrients. Research shows Americans who consume three meals and two snacks per day have the best overall nutrient intake pattern compared to those who skipped meals or omitted snacks. Snacking also plays a role in weight reduction and maintenance. Nearly every major weight loss regime recommends planned snacks as part of a weight loss program and is recommended by Dietary Guidelines and ChooseMyPlate.gov. Moreover, eating patterns that include snacks appear to be beneficial for many age segments of the population, including children and adults.

Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices:

SNAC supports efforts to empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices. As outlined above, we think part of the solution is to improve access to better-for-you options, which our members work to provide anywhere food is purchased. These locations range from grocery to convenience stores, schools, workplaces, travel stations, and entertainment venues, to name a few.

SNAC supports current food labeling requirements, such as the Nutrition Facts Label and ingredient statements, which provide consumers with nutrition knowledge about the food. These tools are partnered with efforts like USDA’s MyPlate Partnership, which promotes the current Dietary Guidelines, and FDA’s *“The New Nutrition Facts Label: What’s in it for You?”* education campaign to raise awareness about the Nutrition Facts label.

Enhance nutrition and food security research:

SNAC supports efforts to enhance nutrition and food security research. This, in part, means support for robust funding of federal agencies and centers that are conducting nutrition research. Additionally, this means support for public-private partnerships focused on the same goal of enhancing nutrition and food security research.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about the robust efforts underway by the snacking industry to address hunger and nutrition. We welcome further dialogue leading into the September Conference and beyond.