

March 26, 2010

Good morning respected council members and community members who have convened here today on behalf of the children served by DC Public Schools. I would like to begin by thanking everyone for your work to cherish, nourish and provide for the well being of our children. I would like to offer hope and encouragement for DC healthy school lunch initiatives by speaking about a vision I share with a growing number of supporters for a solution to the challenge of providing high quality, fresh, locally produced and prepared foods for our children.

We all share the values of nourishing our children and ensuring the fiscal levity and responsibility of our work. I believe that the time is ripe for new approaches to old problems and new thinking to solve them. National healthcare is now a reality for the American people and so, we should follow with an investment in wellness and what better way than to contribute to the health and wellness of our children, but to provide health and wellness education and nourish them with high quality, fresh meals.

I propose that we as a community come together to discuss the possibilities, the creative solutions to make this great idea a reality. One solution that I am exploring, along with Chris Gurre of Great Falls, Virginia and co-owner of the Maple Avenue Market in Vienna, Virginia, is the formation of a social enterprise or non-profit organization to manage diversified farms in Virginia and Maryland for the production of healthy, farm fresh, local beef, chicken, lamb, vegetables, fruits, grains and dairy foods for our region's schools at low cost or no cost.

For more information about this idea and why we believe so strongly that it is a solution to providing healthy, fresh, nutritiously superior foods to schools, please contact us.

Melinda S. Guinn
Fairfax, Virginia
joyfulbountifulharvest@gmail.com

Chris Gurre
Great Falls, Virginia
chris@mapleavenuemarket.com

Submitted By:

**Melinda Guinn
12519 Chronical Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030**