

WILLIAM L. OWENS
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2013

PLEASE RESPOND TO
WASHINGTON OFFICE:

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GLENS FALLS, NY 12801
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The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I write in strong support of New York State's interest in being chosen to implement USDA's strained Greek yogurt pilot program. I believe New York is a clear choice as the nation's leader in Greek yogurt production.

I applaud USDA's decision to implement this pilot program to test the cost-effectiveness of including Greek yogurt in school meal programs as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. New York is eager to demonstrate the benefits of including strained Greek yogurt as a healthy, cost effective food in school meals, and has the expertise and infrastructure necessary to implement the program.

I urge you to give careful and full consideration to New York as a pilot site. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

BILL OWENS
Member of Congress