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GFI Public Comment and Eligibility Recommendation

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Docket #: 22-ERDD-02

Subject: Climate Innovation Program Alternative Protein Prioritization

The Good Food Institute (GFI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with scientists, researchers, businesses, entrepreneurs, industry partners, and policymakers to harness the power of food innovation and markets to create a sustainable, secure, and just food system.

GFI appreciates the opportunity to offer feedback and suggestions on the CEC's Climate Innovation Program (CIP) and GFI respectfully recommends alternative protein technologies: plant-based proteins, microbial fermentation and cultivated (or lab-grown) meat research be eligible for funding in the Program. California has set strong climate goals to reduce methane and greenhouse emissions, the alternative protein industry will be key to meeting these goals and is uniquely suited to help the CEC meet its Resilient Agriculture objectives in the CIP by reducing carbon emissions as well as creating less pollution and utilizing less land and water.

As outlined in the Resilient Ag Objective Goals, the CIP seeks to help farms become resilient carbon sinks, reduce short-lived climate pollutant emissions, and improve air quality in rural communities. Alternative protein technologies align seamlessly with these objectives, offering a transformative approach to agriculture that addresses carbon emissions, pollution, and resource utilization.

As home to more than 100 companies focused on innovating protein production, some of which are the top companies in the world, California leads the nation in alternative protein innovation and has the opportunity to position itself as a global leader in alleviating one of the largest contributors to climate change. For example, when compared with conventional meat production, cultivated meat - meat cultivated directly from cells - is done in facilities using renewable energy which can produce 92% less emissions toward global warming and 93% less pollution and use up to 95% less land and 83% less water. Additionally, plant-based meats emit between 30-97% less GHG emissions, use 71-99% less water, and cause 51-97% less aquatic pollution than conventional meat. With added investment in the development of Alternative proteins emissions and land and water use can be even further reduced.

The CIP should prioritize alternative protein research by explicitly stating that such research qualifies for funding in calls for proposals and engaging in outreach to researchers already actively engaged in such work. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this recommendation and answer any questions.

Considering the outlined Technology Families, alternative protein technologies play a pivotal role in

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biomass and waste reduction and utilization, contributing to soil health and carbon retention. Furthermore, the sustainable practices inherent in alternative protein production align with the goals of resilient agriculture, creating a harmonious synergy between technology families and climate objectives.

In conclusion, we sincerely thank the CEC for considering our recommendations. We are eager to engage in further discussion, provide additional information, and address any inquiries you may have. Together, we can propel California into a leadership position in mitigating climate change through the support of alternative protein technologies in the Climate Innovation Program.

Sincerely,

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