Stephen Sadove  
Chairman of the Board  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  

October 21, 2019  

Dear Mr. Sadove:  

We the undersigned members of Pennsylvania’s legislature write to thank Aramark for the company’s commitment to establishing a holistic strategy to address climate change, and to ask that you include in that strategy a strong commitment to reduce emissions associated with the purchase of climate-intensive foods. At a time of leadership change for the company, there is no better opportunity to re-evaluate what Aramark stands for, reposition the company as a leader in combatting climate change and better serve your customers in the future.  

In his statement on January 30th at the Annual Stakeholder Meeting, Eric Foss’ stated that climate change is a threat to the planet that must be addressed. He noted Aramark’s existing practices to reduce fleet emissions, eliminate deforestation and cut food waste 50 percent by 2030, which are important tools to confront these challenges and also committed to public reporting of performance indicators in Aramark’s climate strategy.  

Mr. Foss also noted that reducing the emissions associated with the foods Aramark serves is a key component of a strong climate pollution plan. In fact, reports issued just this year by the United Nations and the Lancet medical journal call for the world to “limit demand for greenhouse-gas intensive foods through shifts to healthier and more sustainable diets” to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Such a shift would also align with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s January, 2019 Executive Order stating that the Commonwealth shall strive to reduce greenhouse gas pollution 80 percent by 2050.  

As one of the biggest sellers of meals in the United States Aramark has an opportunity to lead a local and industry-wide effort to answer these calls. Your pilot program to train chefs in plant-based menus and your partnership with the American Heart Association to reduce foods containing high levels of saturated fats, many of which are also climate-intensive, are significant first steps toward reducing the global warming impact of Aramark’s menus.  

However, given the enormous volumes of foods purchased by Aramark every day, we believe that a meaningful climate change emission reduction plan under new Aramark leadership should include these additional commitments:  

1. At least a 20 percent reduction in emissions associated with the most climate change-intensive foods on Aramark’s menus—meat, fish, seafood, dairy, and eggs—within the next two years, and  

2. Tracking and making public reports on Aramark’s progress toward the goal of 20 percent reduction.
Aramark can reduce its food emissions by cutting purchases of climate change-intensive foods and replacing them with produce, legumes or whole grains. This commitment will also help reduce food waste, which will also help meet aggressive global warming emissions reduction targets.

Aramark’s commitment to reduce climate emissions from food purchases will have a direct impact on its customers’ health—in both the short- and long-term. You serve millions of college students at campuses across the country and several right here in Pennsylvania; the same students’ whose future will be determined by the actions we take (or fail to take) when it comes to acting on climate change. You are also feeding millions of hospital patients—including those suffering from climate change-related impacts, such as heatstroke, asthma attacks and natural disasters—from wildfires to hurricanes. These customers deserve food that nourishes them today and invests in their future health.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Carolyn T. Comitta
156th Legislative District

State Rep. Steve McCarter
154th Legislative District

State Rep. Donna Bullock
195th Legislative District

State Rep. Mary Jo Daley
148th Legislative District

State Rep. Robert Freeman
136th Legislative District

State Rep. Carol Hill-Evans
95th Legislative District

State Rep. Joseph Hohenstein
177th Legislative District

State Rep. Kristine Howard
167th Legislative District

State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta
181th Legislative District

State Rep. Stephen Kinsey
201st Legislative District

State Rep. Leanne Krueger
161st Legislative District

State Rep. Summer Lee
34th Legislative District

State Rep. Jennifer O’Mara
165th Legislative District

State Rep. Daniel Friel Otten
155th Legislative District

State Rep. Chris Rabb
200th Legislative District
State Rep. Adam Ravenstahl
20th Legislative District

State Rep. Ben Sanchez
153rd Legislative District

State Rep. Peter Schweyer
22nd Legislative District

State Rep. Melissa Shusterman
157th Legislative District

State Rep. Wendy Ullman
143rd Legislative District

State Rep. Greg Vitali
166th Legislative District

State Senator Maria Collett
12th Senatorial District

State Senator Andrew E. Dinniman
19th Senatorial District

State Senator Daylin Leach
17th Senatorial District