

To:

Ron DeSantis
Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
USA, Florida

Prague, 19.3.2024

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We appreciate your dedicated work and recognize the challenging decisions you face as they shape the future of Florida. We are reaching out to you regarding Senate Bill 1084. Our company, Bene Meat Technologies, a leading producer of cultured meat in the EU, is positioned to offer insights into this matter due to our expertise in biotechnology, research, sustainability, and safety related to cultured meat. We collaborate closely with the European Commission and other regulatory authorities, ensuring that our practices adhere to the highest standards and regulations in the industry.

We understand the importance of consumer protection, safety, and moderate market regulation. Therefore, we would like to provide several reasons why you may wish to reconsider Senate Bill 1084, either through vetoing or amending it, as we assume it is in our mutual interest to ensure the highest standards in following areas:

1. Safety first

The USA has a robust system for ensuring safety of new products and protection of the consumer. Cultivated meat undergoes strict regulation by the FDA and USDA, ensuring it adheres to the same safety standards as any other food products. Moreover, produced in controlled, sterile environments devoid of large animal populations and slaughter, it boasts lower susceptibility to contamination compared to industrial animal agriculture.

2. Expanding choices

With global meat demand soaring and traditional farming facing challenges such as insufficient raw materials and rising prices, we see cultivated meat as a complementary solution, not a substitute of industrial agriculture. Once the product is found safe by regulatory bodies then it is up to the consumer to decide what product to purchase.

Above all, cultivated meat holds the promise of providing people with the meat they enjoy in a manner that aligns with their ethical and environmental values. Why hinder progress when it offers a harmonious solution alongside traditional methods?

Bene Meat Technologies a.s.

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3. Impact on the planet

Sustainability is currently very important in every decision being taken. Cultivated meat is considered to be a sustainable innovative option alongside traditional livestock farming. This type of innovation, capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving agricultural land, water, and energy, is globally supported and is part of international agreements. Studies by independent organizations show that cultivated meat can address the rising demand for meat in a way that is not detrimental to the environment. Please see more information here: <https://www.unep.org/resources/whats-cooking-assessment-potential-impacts-selected-novel-alternatives-conventional>

4. Complementarity over competition

Cultivated meat serves as a complementary solution to address the escalating global demand for meat, coexisting harmoniously with existing methods of meat production. Given the challenges confronting our food supply, embracing innovation to foster a plethora of safe, sustainable, and palatable options is imperative.

5. Fostering Innovation

The biotechnology industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the American economy. Proposed bans on cultivated meat pose a threat to America's status as a pioneer in innovation and may confer a competitive advantage to other nations in crafting resilient, self-sustaining food systems. Embracing advancements in biotechnology, particularly in the field of cultivated meat, not only ensures America's continued leadership in innovation but also fosters a more sustainable and secure food future for all.

Therefore, we would like to ask you, within the competences entrusted to you, to consider those facts when you review this proposal. We are available to provide any additional information or support you may need. Please feel free to reach out to us at media@benemeat.com with any questions or inquiries.

With regards,

for, and on behalf of, Bene Meat Technologies a.s.



Mgr. Roman Kříž
Chairman of the Board


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