

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact:

awilkinson@nara.org

(703) 683-0155

NARA Expresses Disappointment Over the Final National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste

ALEXANDRIA, VA, June 14, 2024 – The North American Renderers Association (NARA) appreciates the references to rendering in the recently released Final Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste. However, NARA remains significantly concerned that the Final Strategy fails to fully recognize the rendering industry's tremendous contributions to reducing food loss and waste by diverting 54 million pounds of raw material from landfills each year.

"The Final Strategy seems to pick winners and losers by making it clear that only certain technologies will benefit from new agency funding and research initiatives, at the disadvantage of existing technologies" said Kent Swisher, NARA President, and CEO. "This approach does not move us closer to meeting the goal of halving food loss and waste (FLW) and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Instead, it simply incentivizes shifting the food waste supply stream from one industry to another at the expense of renderers who are already making substantial impacts."

To ensure that rendering is a part of the national strategy, NARA urges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revise its Wasted Food Scale to re-include rendering as a key waste management strategy. The scale's current exclusion of rendering overlooks a vital component of the circular economy that significantly contributes to waste reduction. NARA echoes the sentiments expressed in [the letter](#) led by Senators Marshall and Bennet, and signed by Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman, urging the EPA to update the Wasted Food Scale. This suggestion highlights the critical need for an inclusive and comprehensive approach to waste management.

The best way to achieve America's food loss and waste goals is to adopt a results oriented approach that is technology-neutral. The Administration can demonstrate their commitment to bringing all relevant stakeholders to the table by revising the Wasted Food Scale to include the rendering industry in recognition of rendering's role as the largest recycler of organic material. Emphasizing other technologies ahead of rendering will actually increase the carbon footprint of our food system and negatively impact the environment.

The Administration should not promote and encourage the adoption of the Wasted Food Scale by state and local governments when it is incomplete and not based on a comprehensive analysis of all relevant waste management pathways. A truly effective national strategy must recognize and incorporate all viable solutions, including rendering, to foster a sustainable circular economy.

NARA respectfully calls on the Administration and relevant agencies to revise their strategies and policies to fully integrate rendering as a recognized and supported method of reducing food loss and waste.

####

About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in Mexico and Hong Kong, and has market consultants in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information, visit www.nara.org.