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TO: Thomas Lamb
SUBJECT: Food Services Supply Chain Increases and Shortages
DATE: October 14, 2021
CC: Michael Gormany

Food Service Department is facing many supply chain issues, shortages, price increases, and items not available by the manufacturers.

I need flexibility with our purchasing contracts. Many of our food products manufacturers are asking for a “Force Majeure” price increase due to the pandemic. Our current bidding process does not allow for price increase or substitutions with price increases on products.

I am asking for Finance and Operations to allow flexibility to purchase food products for our meal programs.

Our vendors and distributors are all working with us to find available products that meet our nutritional standards. However, some of the substitution or alternate items were not on the bid list. We are only able to purchase items that were on the original bid list. I will need flexibility to purchase alternate food items.

This is a nation-wide supply chain issue. Our distributor is facing many challenges as well with staffing, pricing and availability, we are experiencing delays in delivery, 3-4 days from the distributor.

Orders that I placed in February for our USDA Commodity Items are being canceled and/or have pricing changes. Timelines have gone from a 2-week order to a 6 – 8-week delivery schedule. The companies are unable to fill the orders.

Currently we are able to meet our menu needs, however, as each day brings a new challenge to find products.