



Dear Slow Food Supporter,

The City of San Francisco is proud to partner with the inaugural Slow Food Nation exposition, to be held on Labor Day Weekend 2008 at City Hall Plaza and Fort Mason Center. Inspired by Alice Waters, this event will focus national and global attention on the rising movement for a food production system that is healthy, earth-friendly, biodiverse and socially just.

Part celebration, part convention, the Slow Food Nation exposition will link appetite with awareness. It will be the first event of its kind in our country, drawing concerned citizens, food producers, cooks, educators, entrepreneurs, and noted authorities on agriculture and sustainability. I urge California's civic, corporate and political leaders as well as local organizations and residents to join me in giving this landmark event their support. And, I invite the American public to come and see what's cooking.

We in the Bay Area have long understood the value of local, sustainable agriculture. Our pride of place and burgeoning network of dedicated food producers have helped make San Francisco the epicenter of the American fresh-foods and farm-to-table movement. We celebrate food as essential to our culture and we understand how important food choices are to our well-being and to our stewardship of the land. However, even in the Bay Area, not everyone has access to healthy food or even to enough food. Here as elsewhere, low-income populations are especially vulnerable to diet-related problems such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

This is why I co-sponsored the U.S. Conference of Mayors resolution to reform America's agricultural policy in the 2007 Farm Bill. We need to join together, across the state and across the nation, to address the fundamental connection between food quality and public health. We need to restore the relationship between local producers and local consumers. We need to champion sustainable agriculture and energy conservation in the food chain. We need to make sure fresh, healthy, good food is available to everyone.

These are Slow Food Nation's goals. I hope you will join me on Labor Day Weekend 2008 in San Francisco to celebrate them. For more information on the First Annual Slow Food Nation exposition, please visit www.slowfoodnation.org.

Eat well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom
Mayor