

Virtual National Food Policy Conference



Speaker and Panelist Biographies



José Andrés is an internationally-recognized culinary innovator, New York Times best-selling author, educator, humanitarian, and chef and owner of ThinkFoodGroup, the award-winning collective of nearly thirty restaurants throughout the country and beyond. In 2010, Andrés founded World Central Kitchen, a non-profit specializing in delivering food relief in the wake of natural and humanitarian disasters. Notably, his team served 3.7 million meals to the people of Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria and has since served more than 20 million meals worldwide. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WCK has partnered with restaurants, small farms, and local partners around the country to combat food insecurity ([see more](#)).



Lauren Bauer is a Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. Her research focuses on social and safety net policies as well as civic engagement and political behavior. She is a member of the New York City Office of Community Schools Research Advisory Council and holds a BA in History and an MA and PhD in Human Development and Social Policy with a certificate in Education Sciences all from Northwestern University. Prior to taking up doctoral work, Lauren served in research positions with political campaigns and as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary at the US Department of Education ([see more](#)).



Tom Bené is President & CEO of the National Restaurant Association—the Washington, D.C.-based trade association representing the nation's restaurant and foodservice industry—and CEO of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Prior to assuming this role in June 2020, Tom served as Chairman, President & CEO of Sysco Corp., the world's largest foodservice distributor, where he had previously served as COO, President of Foodservice Operations, and Chief Commercial Officer. Prior to Sysco, Tom served as President of Pepsi-Cola Foodservice and held a variety of senior leadership roles over his 23-year career with the company, ([see more](#)).



Senator Cory Booker grew up in northern New Jersey and received his undergraduate and master's degree from Stanford University. At Stanford, Cory played varsity football, volunteered for the campus peer counseling center, and wrote for the student newspaper. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went on to study at the University of Oxford, and then Yale Law School, where he graduated in 1997 ([see more](#)).



Mark Broadhurst is the Senior Director of Public Affairs at Chobani and is responsible for strengthening the yogurt company's relationships with stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels "in order to better work together," according to a statement. Broadhurst also provides strategic counsel on public policy issues affecting Chobani's operations and communities. Broadhurst joined Chobani from Mars, where he had worked since 2008, most recently, he was Mars' director of government relations in the U.S. and Canada ([see more](#)).



Robert Campbell is the Managing Director of Policy for Feeding America, supporting a network of 200 food banks serving 60,000 partner agencies and more than 40 million individuals. Robert is responsible for overall public policy development and strategy for federal nutrition programs including SNAP, child nutrition programs, and other issues important to Feeding America's food banks and the millions of individuals and families facing food insecurity. This includes extensive assistance with policy and programmatic issues that arise at the federal and state level, managing coalition work, and interfacing with Congressional and Administration staff to improve the lives of individuals facing food insecurity ([see more](#)).



Dr. Sandy Curwood is the Director of School Nutrition Programs at the Virginia Department of Education, working to assure that every Virginia student has equitable access to good, healthy, food at school, to enhance academic success and promote lifelong wellness. Former school foodservice director for fifteen years, in school districts in California, successful in implementing Farm-to-School programs, conversion to speed-scratch cooking and incorporating nutrition education and garden based learning in to the classroom. As a registered dietitian worked in a variety of food service and healthcare settings. Served as adjunct faculty taught foodservice systems and nutrition courses at Cal State Northridge ([see more](#)).



Helena Bottemiller Evich is a senior food and agriculture reporter for POLITICO Pro. Before joining POLITICO, Helena spent four years reporting on food politics and policy at Food Safety News, where she covered Congress, the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Helena's work has also appeared in the Columbia Journalism Review and on NBC News. Her reporting has taken her to the Louisiana coast during the Gulf oil spill, Arizona lettuce fields, North Carolina hog farms and the occasional presidential turkey pardoning ([see more](#)).



Lola Fadulu is a journalist based in Washington, D.C. She has reported for The New York Times, The Atlantic, and Quartz. In August she will join The Washington Post as a metro reporting fellow while pursuing her master's in journalism from American University ([see more](#)).



Jack Gillis is the Executive Director of the Consumer Federation of America where he previously served as Director of Public Affairs since 1983. In addition to being CFA's CEO, Gillis serves as an advocate on issues relating to auto safety, auto buying, fuel efficiency and consumer protection. In the early 1980's Jack was cited by the New York Times as a leader in the next generation of consumer advocates. He is the author, co-author or editor of 75 books including The Car Book, The Used Car Book, The Truck, Van and 4x4 Book, and The Car Repair Book ([see more](#)).



Thomas Gremillion is the Director of Food Policy at the Consumer Federation of America. He oversees the research, analysis, advocacy and media outreach for the group's food policy activities, and monitors food safety activities at USDA, FDA and in Congress, where he advocates for strong food safety protections for consumers. He also coordinates the Safe Food Coalition, a group of consumer, trade union, and foodborne illness victim organizations dedicated to reducing foodborne illness by improving government food inspection programs ([see more](#)).



Dr. Stephen M. Hahn was sworn in as the 24th Commissioner of Food and Drugs on December 17, 2019. Dr. Hahn is a physician, scientist and health care leader with an extensive background in patient care, academic research and executive leadership. Dr. Hahn is a dedicated clinician, having trained in both medical oncology and radiation oncology. In his previous leadership roles, he has always carefully balanced executive management with clinical time to continue to serve oncology patients, his true passion. He specializes in treating both lung cancer and sarcoma ([see more](#)).



Shannon Hayes operates Sap Bush Hollow Farm & Cafe in Upstate NY with 3 generations of her family. She is host of the weekly podcast, The Hearth of Sap Bush Hollow, and author of six books, including The Grassfed Gourmet Cookbook & Radical Homemakers. Her newest book, Redefining Rich, is due out from BenBella Books in August 2021 ([see more](#)).



Congressman Jim McGovern was first elected to Congress in 1996, Jim has fought tirelessly for the people of Massachusetts and has earned the respect and trust of his colleagues - including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who named him Chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee during the 116th Congress. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Nutrition and Oversight. He also serves as the Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and is the Democratic Co-Chair of the bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission - both of which monitor, investigate and advocate on behalf of international human rights, the rule of law, and good governance ([see more](#)).



Leslie G. Sarasin is the president and chief executive officer of FMI - The Food Industry Association. FMI is a champion for the food industry and the issues that make a difference to our members' fundamental mission of feeding and enriching society. The reach and impact of our work is extensive, ultimately touching the lives of over 100 million households in the United States and representing an \$800 billion industry with nearly 6 million employees. Under her leadership, FMI has emerged as a member-centered organization helping food retailing venues find new and future facing ways of feeding families and enriching lives ([see more](#)).



Eric Schlosser is the author of *Fast Food Nation* and a co-producer of the Oscar-nominated documentary *Food, Inc.* ([see more](#)).



Ellen Teller As director of government affairs, Ellen provides leadership in the development and implementation of FRAC's legislative agenda. Working with Congress, national organizations, and FRAC's diverse state and local grassroots field network, Ellen advocates for improved access and participation to domestic anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs for low-income individuals and families. Ellen joined FRAC in 1986 as a staff attorney and had previously worked at the American Bar Association's Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, and the Consumer Federation of America. Ellen has a B.A. in political science and English literature from the State University of New York College at Oneonta, and a J.D. from Western New England College School of Law ([see more](#)).