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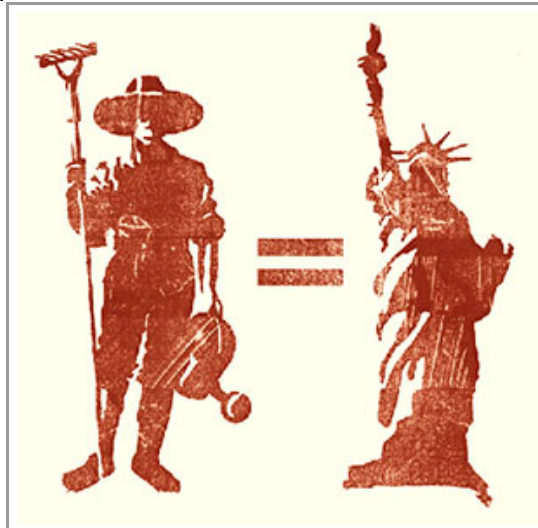
## Food

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# Declaration for healthy food and agriculture

by Laurie V. Carlson / 9-17-2008

The following document was released in connection with the Slow Food Nation symposium, held Labor Day weekend in San Francisco (see page 5). It was signed by more than one hundred food producers, restauraners, educators and others concerned with the quality of American food. Primary signatories included



### Bright Green Ideas

**Take Back the Tap,** another theme at the recent Slow Food Nation gathering, reminded us that bottled water is not only wasteful and environmentally unsound but that most tap water is actually quite good and



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Michael Pollan and Alice Waters, and the documents was drafted largely by Food Fight author Daniel Imhoff. For more information on the declaration and the Slow Food movement, visit [\[fooddeclaration.org\]](http://fooddeclaration.org).

We, the undersigned, believe that a healthy food system is necessary

to meet the urgent challenges of our time.

Behind us stands a half-century of industrial food production,

underwritten by cheap fossil fuels, abundant land and water resources, and a drive

to maximize the global harvest of cheap calories. Ahead lie

rising energy and food costs, a changing climate, declining

water supplies, a growing population,

and the paradox of widespread hunger and obesity

doesn't need to be shipped a thousand miles or more. You only need a bottle or glass to capture it.

The recent national mayors' conference passed a resolution urging cities to ban the sale of bottled water within their buildings. This movement pits environmentalists against the ten billion dollar a year bottled water industry. New York City's environmental department has begun a major media campaign to urge New Yorkers to drink tap, not bottled water.

A number of S.F. restaurants have taken up the cause and have taken bottled water off their menus. Some have gone a step further by installing the rather expensive technology to make fizzy water on site, instead of offering Perrier or Pellegrino to diners.

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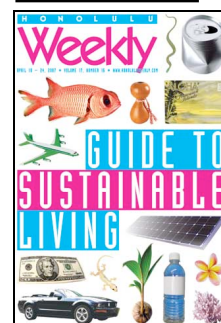
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and the paradox of widespread hunger and obesity.

- These realities call for a radically different approach to food and agriculture. We believe that the food system must be reorganized on a foundation of health: for our communities, for people, for animals, and for the natural world. The quality of food, and not just its quantity, ought to guide our agriculture. The ways we grow, distribute, and prepare food should celebrate our various cultures and our shared humanity, providing not only sustenance, but justice, beauty and pleasure.

- Governments have a duty to protect people from malnutrition, unsafe food, and exploitation, and to protect the land and water on which we depend from degradation. Individuals, producers, and organizations have a duty to create regional systems that can provide healthy food for their communities. We all have a duty to respect and honor the laborers of the land without whom we could not survive. The changes we call for here have begun, but the time has come to accelerate the transformation of our food and agriculture and make its benefits available to all.

We believe that the following twelve principles should frame food and agriculture policy, to ensure that it will contribute to the health and wealth of the nation and the world. A healthy food and agriculture policy:

1. Forms the foundation of secure and prosperous societies, healthy communities, and healthy people.
2. Provides access to affordable, nutritious food to

## the Weekly



everyone.

3. Prevents the exploitation of farmers, workers, and natural resources; the domination of genomes and markets; and the cruel treatment of animals, by any nation, corporation or individual.

4. Upholds the dignity, safety, and quality of life for all who work to feed us.

5. Commits resources to teach children the skills and knowledge essential to food production, preparation, nutrition, and enjoyment.

6. Protects the finite resources of productive soils, fresh water, and biological diversity.

7. Strives to remove fossil fuel from every link in the food chain and replace it with renewable resources and energy.

8. Originates from a biological rather than an industrial framework.

9. Fosters diversity in all its relevant forms: diversity of domestic and wild species; diversity of foods, flavors and traditions; diversity of ownership.

10. Requires a national dialog concerning technologies used in production, and allows regions to adopt their own respective guidelines on such matters.

11. Enforces transparency so that citizens know how their food is produced, where it comes from, and what it contains.

12. Promotes economic structures and supports

programs to nurture the development of just and sustainable regional farm and food networks.

Our pursuit of healthy food and agriculture unites us as people and as communities, across geographic boundaries, and social and economic lines. We pledge our votes, our purchases, our creativity, and our energies to this urgent cause.

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