



**Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
House Bill 10 Opponent Testimony**

October 27, 2025

Dear Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members:

On behalf of **UPSIDE Foods**, I write to express our concerns with **House Bill 10**, which would restrict public procurement of cultivated protein products and impose labeling language that conflicts with federal law and existing regulatory oversight.

**UPSIDE Foods** is part of a growing sector of American food and agriculture that uses science and innovation to produce meat, poultry, and seafood directly from animal cells. These foods are regulated jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and are already approved for sale and consumption in the U.S. under strict federal standards for safety, labeling, and transparency.

**1. Federal Labeling Authority**

Cultivated meat and poultry products fall under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), which give USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) exclusive authority over labeling. HB 10's attempt to redefine or restrict product labeling at the state level would conflict with this federal framework and risk violating the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

**2. Free and Truthful Commercial Speech**

Preventing companies from using accurate, federally approved terminology raises First Amendment concerns. Courts have repeatedly ruled against state efforts to ban the use of words like "meat" or "milk" on truthfully labeled products where there is no evidence of consumer confusion.

**3. Impact on Ohio's Food Economy**

Cultivated meat and seafood represent an opportunity for American agriculture — including farmers, feed producers, and food processors — to expand markets and strengthen food security. Restricting access to these products sends the wrong message about Ohio's commitment to innovation and economic growth in the food and agriculture sector.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **reject HB 10** or, at minimum, remove provisions that conflict with federal law and restrict the purchase of federally approved cultivated meat products by state institutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,**

Uma Valeti, MD

CEO, UPSIDE Foods