

Declaration of Food Independence

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for freedom-loving people to dissolve the bands which have subjected them to the will of nutrition zealots, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Consumers are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and whatever they choose to eat or drink in the pursuit of happiness. That whenever any menu meddlers become destructive of these ends, it is the right of Consumers to alter or abolish that relationship, organizing their powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations – including taxes, finger-waving, and misinformation – evinces a design to reduce the freedoms of responsible adults under dietary despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such tyrants. Such is now the necessity which impels us to alter our former tolerance of mealtime meddling. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid public:

- The Humane Society of the United States, which shares only one percent of its massive annual budget with hands-on animal shelters, has knowingly misled donors with deceptive advertisements suggesting the vegan activist group is affiliated with local pet shelters.
- Nutrition zealots are trying to subvert traditional American beliefs about personal responsibility. Many such zealots argue the preposterous notion that foods affect people in the same way drugs do in the hope that it will encourage trial lawyers to sue our favorite foods out of existence.
- New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has proposed, against the will of New Yorkers and 70 percent of the American people, an “arbitrary and capricious” ban upon select large-sized drinks.
- The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) has moved to enact a Prohibition upon all our sweet beverages in the service of an anti-pleasure agenda.
- The Yale Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity has conducted an endless war in states and towns across the country to bludgeon us with taxes and bans upon our favorite dinner options.
- Mark Bittman, Michael Pollan, and other gourmet activists are determined to make food production less efficient and more costly for everyone.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture have campaigned furiously to stamp out one of children’s most valued liberties: the birthday cupcake.
- Many activist groups design false food scares to push their hidden agendas. Offending organizations include, but are not limited to, the deceptively named Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the Environmental Working Group, and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

In every stage of these oppressions we have responded with skeptical inquiries, humorous retorts, the occasional cartoon, and a healthy dose of common sense. Our sustained efforts have been answered only by repeated attempts to insult, tax, browbeat, and control us. A dietary zealot whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to rule over free Consumers’ meals.

We therefore solemnly publish and declare that Consumers are, and ought to be, sovereign adults trusted to make their own food decisions. They have full power to eat, drink, and purchase without fear of harassment, violence, tyrannical taxes, “guilt trips,” or lawsuits.

It’s your food. It’s your drink. It’s your freedom.

The Center For
Consumer Freedom