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Food Industry Workgroup Opportunity

California's current fiscal crisis highlights the need for state government to review its business activities and practices to ensure continued service to its stakeholders. The Food and Drug Branch (FDB) is pleased to announce the re-establishment of a food industry workgroup to assist the Industry Education and Training Unit (IETU) within FDB. The workgroup provides a rewarding opportunity for food industry leaders to assist in identifying training areas and effective delivery venues of benefit to the California food industry. The workgroup will benefit the food industry by improving communications and expanding our partnerships to better meet the information needs of food processors and enhancing the services provided by IETU.

IETU was established to develop and provide low-cost, readily available, food safety training and information to the California food industry. Since its inception, the program has provided numerous workshops on diverse topics such as Good Manufacturing Practices, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems for seafood and juice manufacturers, food recalls and has made presentations at multiple food industry venues. One of the program's major accomplishments was the collaborative development of food safety videos directed at sprout, juice, and fresh cut industries. Looking ahead, FDB is excited about the potential increase in the use of web-oriented platforms and social networking sites including webinars, You Tube, and Facebook in order to reach firms that frequently do not have the time or resources to attend traditional food safety training.

FDB invites you to become involved in this valuable program developed to improve services and more efficiently utilize the combined resources of state government and industry. We are seeking a limited number of individuals representing a cross-section of California's diverse food industry. Responsibilities will generally consist of providing periodic planning and evaluations of food safety information developed by IETU.

If you are interested in applying or have additional questions, please contact Hugo Cornejo, Chief, Training Unit, Hugo.Cornejo@cdph.ca.gov.