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Campus Rec

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To the Health Care Committee, Chair Greenlick:

My name is Erin Bransford and I am the Coordinator of Fitness & Health Promotion at Portland State University. Portland State University is committed to fostering a sustainable campus environment that supports healthy living practices. Further, Portland State University's Healthy Campus Initiative has the mission "to support an ecology of campus wellness while promoting healthy behaviors and an ethic of care". One of the committee's three main charges is to "create a safer and healthier campus where safer, healthier choices are easy to make". With these values in mind, it was determined that implementing nutrition standards in campus vending machines was in alignment with PSU's goals.

A committee was established in the summer of 2011 to work on this charge. After speaking with appropriate players, including the food vendor and representatives from PSU's Finance and Administration Department, a pilot was agreed upon by all parties that included transitioning a few machines on campus to our proposed nutrition standards. Unfortunately, the machines were regularly stocked with items that did not meet our standards, items were mislabeled in the machines, and we never received 100% compliance in any vending machine. Countless hours were thus spent on attempting to get compliance and convincing the vendor to do what had been agreed upon, while no useful data could be collected. Although we received no complaints from students or vendors and did receive several positive comments, we have been unsuccessful at moving forward with this project. It would be extremely helpful if there was one uniform set of standards to support this project on the PSU campus.