

California Farmers Union
"Working Hard for Rural California"

September 1, 2004

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket 2004P-0202/CP1

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the more than 2000 farmer and rancher members of the California Farmers Union (CFU), I write in strong support of the petition submitted by the National Family Farm Coalition regarding the use of Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) in human food products. The petition was assigned docket number 2004P-0202/CP1. We strongly agree with the petitioner that all state and federal agencies should be notified immediately that milk protein concentrate (MPC) does not meet the requirements for classification as "Generally Regarded as Safe." The fact that food processors currently use MPC as a food ingredient is a clear violation of the Code of Federal Regulation regarding safety

California is the top dairy producer in the nation and our dairy farmer members have a great deal at stake when dairy products enter the food system that are not proven safe. Given the fact that MPC has not passed the necessary GRAS requirements, we do not believe it should be allowed as a food ingredient. We are extremely concerned that the continued use of MPC in a wide variety of food products could pose a serious public health risk.

As producers we work hard to provide a safe food supply to the public. Because MPC has not passed the necessary safety requirements, its use in the food supply undermines our efforts to ensure food safety. Despite the fact that MPC has never been tested for safety and has not been approved by the FDA, it is commonly used in processed cheese and other products. To alleviate the food safety risk, we urge FDA to take immediate action in support of the petition submitted by the National Family Farm Coalition on this important matter.

We appreciate your attention in this regard.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Contente
President

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