



GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA
MAKERS OF THE WORLD'S FAVORITE BRANDS OF
FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

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July 1, 2004

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

**Re: Request for Extension of Comment Period-
Docket Nos. 1994P-0390 and 1995P-0241; Food Labeling:
Nutrient Content Claims, General Principles; Health Claims,
General Requirements and Other Specific Requirements for
Individual Health Claims; Reopening of the Comment Period;
69 Fed. Reg. (May 4, 2004)**

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the members of the Grocery Manufacturers of America (GMA)¹, we are in full support of the American Bakers Association's (ABA) request for a sixty day extension, to September 3, 2004, for the comment period on Docket Numbers 1994P-0390 and 1995P-0241 addressing food labeling, nutrient content claims, general principles; health claims, general requirements and other specific requirements for individual health claims.

Like ABA, GMA and its members share FDA's goal of providing consumers with accurate, truthful and non-misleading information regarding the relationship of diet to health and diseases.

GMA agrees with ABA that more time is needed to fully consider the specific requirements of this proposal, given the seven year period that has lapsed since the petition was submitted. GMA needs additional time to ensure that all of our members concerns are addressed to accurately comment and respond to FDA.

GMA respectfully requests a 60-day extension in support of ABA's request, until September 3, 2004 for the comment period on this rulemaking.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Kretser
Director, Scientific and Nutrition Policy

¹ GMA is the world's largest association of food, beverage and consumer product companies. With U.S. sales of more than \$500 billion, GMA members employ more than 2.5 million workers in all 50 states. The organization applies legal, scientific and political expertise from its member companies to vital food, nutrition and public policy issues affecting the industry. Led by a board of 42 Chief Executive Officers, GMA speaks for food and consumer product manufacturers and sales agencies at the state, federal and international levels on legislative and regulatory issues. The association also leads efforts to increase productivity, efficiency and growth in the food, beverage and consumer products industry.

