

HFA-305



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 27 2004

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The Honorable Judd Gregg
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition to establish the descriptive claims "excellent source," "good source," and "made with" for whole grain content of foods. You stated that the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of the petition would be wholly consistent with the goal of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work towards a healthier America. The petition, received on May 11, is currently under review at FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

As you may know, HHS and the U. S. Department of Agriculture developed the *2000 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the *Food Guide Pyramid*, which contain guidelines for increased consumption of whole grain foods. HHS remains committed to the goal of making available to consumers more and better information about the health benefits of foods. We appreciate your support and commitment to working with us towards a healthier America. Your letter has been forwarded to FDA's Dockets Management Branch to be included as a comment to the petition on whole grain content claims.

Thank you again for contacting us concerning this matter. Please call me if you have any further thoughts or questions.

Sincerely,


Tommy G. Thompson

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