



**GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA**

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

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April 21, 2000

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

Re: Docket No. 97N-0436 / FDA Draft Study Report; Feasibility of Appropriate  
Methods of Informing Customers of the Contents of Bottled Water

Dear Sir or Madam:

The undersigned food product trade associations appreciate the opportunity to submit comments to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the February 22, 2000, FDA Draft Study Report; Feasibility of Appropriate Methods of Informing Customers of the Contents of Bottled Water.

We believe that consumers should be able to obtain information about the safety and quality of a food product on a timely basis. Presently, all packaged foods, including bottled water, have extensive labeling requirements, including a statement of identity, compliance with the definitions in the Standard of Identity (21 C.F.R. § 166.110(a)) ingredient labeling, name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer or distributor and nutrition labeling, if otherwise required. Any additional information FDA may seek to require by regulation must be considered a material fact, the absence of which will result in misleading labeling that fails to reveal a material fact. (21 U.S.C. § 321(n); 21 U.S.C. § 343(a).)

FDA, including its present Commissioner, has consistently stated that regulations such as this must be based on solid science. Thus, it is not surprising that, except for several safety warnings, FDA has never promulgated a regulation requiring additional information on food labeling. Information about a product that does not rise to the FDA standard for a material fact may not be required on food labeling.

Since we believe the current product labeling requirements are more than adequate to ensure a means of relaying information to consumers, it is therefore unnecessary for FDA to recommend any further labeling measures for bottled water beyond those already in place.

Sincerely,

Grocery Manufacturers of America National Food Processors Association

97N-0436

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## FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 24, 2000  
TO: FDA Dockets Management  
FAX: (301) 827-6870  
FROM: Doug Robertson  
PAGES: 2 (Including Cover Sheet)  
MESSAGE: See attached.

If you are having problems receiving this document, please call 202/337-9400.