



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

DEC 10 1999

The Honorable Sam Gejdenson
U.S. House of Representatives
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gejdenson:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 1999, expressing concern about the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposed rule on refrigeration and labeling of shell eggs.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled. FSIS enforces the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, which require Federal inspection and regulation of meat, poultry, and egg products prepared for distribution in commerce for use as human food.

FSIS and FDA are working closely to develop an action plan to address *Salmonella enteritidis* in shell eggs and egg products using a farm-to-table approach. Both FSIS and FDA have established public dockets to receive comments about the egg safety action plan. Your comment addressing the impact of proposed labeling of shell eggs is in reference to an FDA proposed rule requiring safe handling statements on labels of shell eggs that have not been treated to destroy *Salmonella* microorganisms. Because this falls under FDA's jurisdiction, we have forwarded your comment to the FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD. 20852.

If you have questions or if we can be of further assistance, please let us know. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Derfler
Deputy Administrator
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

cc: FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

96P-0418

C807

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2304 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2076

<http://www.house.gov/gejdenson/>
bozrah@mail.house.gov

DISTRICT OFFICES:

2 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, 5TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 2000
NORWICH, CT 06360
(860) 886-0139

94 COURT STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06467
(860) 346-1123



Helen

SAM GEJDENSON
2D DISTRICT
CONNECTICUT

RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 1999

Mr. Thomas J. Billy
Administrator
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 331-E
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Billy:

I have been contacted by egg producers in my district who are concerned about the Food and Drug Administration's proposed rule relating to the refrigeration and labeling of shell eggs. My constituents have voiced concerns regarding the negative impact of the proposed labeling requirement on the egg industry. I urge you to give careful consideration to the comments of egg producers before making a final determination about the rule.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SAM GEJDENSON
Member of Congress

SG:er

United States Department of Agriculture

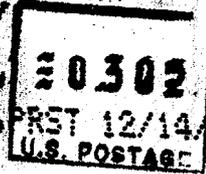
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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ *C807*

See File Number:

97P-0197/ *C808*

96P-0418/ *C807*