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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4803

Dockets Management Branch HFA-305  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20825

SUBJECT: Public Comments on 01N-0459 Agency Info Collection Activities-Notification Procedures for Statements on Dietary Supplements

-FOOD ALLERGENS-

I am writing in support of labeling foods containing gluten so that people suffering from Celiac Sprue Disease may be able to adhere to the strict clinical diet required by their ailment.

As many as 1 in 150 people may suffer from Celiac Sprue Disease, a disorder that causes gastrointestinal problems resulting from consumption of foods containing gluten such as wheat, rye, barley and oats. This inherited affliction may strike a person at any age. This variability is due both to delays in making the diagnosis after symptoms develop and to variability in the age of symptom onset. Celiac Sprue left undiagnosed or neglected by non-compliance to the clinical diet over a period of time may lead to higher incidences of intestinal lymphoma or other gastrointestinal malignancies.

Persons suffering from Celiac recognize that grain proteins are very important diet components for most persons, but they wish for--and depend upon--accurate and understandable product labeling. Since there is no clear minimal amount of gliadin-type protein which is reliably harmless, it is also important that small amounts of gliadin NOT be included in foods which are labeled as gluten-free [for example, as excipients or contaminants, such as might be carried over in multipurpose grain processing equipment]. Secondly, the availability of food variety and quality in the "gluten-free" category is also an important wish of individuals with Celiac Sprue.

Labeling foods containing gluten or possible gluten contaminants is essential for those suffering from Celiac Sprue Disease and it is my hope that the Food and Drug Administration will take this opportunity to properly label such foods.

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Member of Congress

NJR/cg

01N-0459

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**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

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*Vicki Rehall*

M.C.

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