



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

HFA-385

Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

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November 17, 2005

Datuk Haron Siraj  
Chief Executive Officer  
Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Wisma Sawit, Lot 6, SS6, Jalan Perbandaran  
47301 Kelana Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Dear Mr. Siraj:

This is in response to your letter addressed to Michael Leavitt, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, in which you expressed that the statements made by the Center for Science in the Public Interest on the use of palm oil are misleading accusations and unjustified. Your letter was referred to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for response.

Thank you for sharing your views on palm oil. A part of FDA's mission is to help the public receive accurate science-based information that affects their health. Americans face a wide range of food choices in grocery stores and at restaurants. FDA's responsibility is to empower consumers to make informed decisions about their food selections and to encourage them to make changes in their diets for better health. We appreciate receiving this information and will add your letter to the public docket for the *trans* fat advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (Docket 2003N-0076) for consideration on further rulemaking involving *trans* fat labeling.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs

2003N-0076

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