DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

AUG 16 2005

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3004

Dear Senator Corzine:

Thank you for the letter of May 4, 2005, on behalf of Nitta Casings, Inc., (NCI) of Somerville, New Jersey. NCI submitted comments to an interim final rulemaking on bovine spongiform encephalopathy issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in July 2004 expressing concern that certain bovine hide-derived products, including collagen casings, could be prohibited from use by a strict reading of a definition in the interim final rule.

FDA is aware that a strict interpretation of the definition of prohibited cattle materials would appear to include all materials, such as hide, that are given only *ante mortem* inspection. It was not our intention to include all hide-derived products as prohibited material and we are working to address comments and clarify our position.

Thank you again for contacting us concerning this matter. If you have further questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

for Kyle Bradshaw

Patrick Ronan
Associate Commissioner
for Legislation