

2004Q-0151 Qualified Health Claim (QHC): soy protein and cancer

FDA Comment Number : EC56

Submitter : Ms. Marianne Pendleton

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Organization : Ms. Marianne Pendleton

Category : Individual Consumer

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

3/30/2005

Tomoko Shimakawa, Sc.D.

Division of Nutrition Programs and Labeling Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling and Dietary Supplements Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Food and Drug Administration 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, HFS-830 College Park, MD 20740-3835

Re: Docket: 2004Q-0151 - Qualified Health Claim: Soy Protein and Cancer

Dear Dr. Shimakawa:

I am writing to protest the proposed soy-protein-prevents-cancer health claim and to request that the FDA hold a public hearing on this matter.

Approval of this health claim would double the sales of soy foods in this country, bringing enormous profits to the soy and food processing industries while putting me, my family and most of the American public at risk.

I personally experienced hypothyroidism. This health issue resulted from the frequent consumption of tofu, baked tofu and soy burgers.

I am deeply troubled by the prospect of a soy protein/cancer health claim for the following reasons:

- . There is no consensus among experts that soy prevents cancer.
- . Substantial evidence exists showing that soy can contribute to or even cause cancer, including breast cancer.
- . Cancer statistics and epidemiological studies suggest that soy protein consumption might contribute to lower rates of some types of cancer but to higher rates of other types of cancer.
- . The plant estrogens (isoflavones) contained in soy protein products can cause thyroid damage, reproductive disorders and other endocrine disruption.
- . Soy is one of the top eight allergens, and its increased presence in the food supply would jeopardize the health and lives of many Americans.
- . Several subsets of the population are at special risk, including people suffering from hypothyroidism and cancer.

For the above reasons, I urge the FDA to hold a public hearing on soy protein and to reject the proposed qualified soy-prevents-cancer health claim.

Thank you,

Marianne Pendleton

600 7th Avenue #101
Seattle, WA 98104
206-265-1477