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Coleen E. Klasmeier
Covington & Burling
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2401

RE: Health Claim Petition – Diets Including Walnuts Can Reduce the **Risk** of Heart Disease

Dear Ms. Klasmeier:

This letter acknowledges receipt on March 15, 2002 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of your petition submitted on behalf of the California Walnut Commission pursuant to Section 403(r)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343(r)(4)). You requested that the FDA approve, for use in the labeling of foods comprising whole and chopped walnuts, health claims communicating that diets including walnuts can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease

Your petition is undergoing initial FDA review. In accordance with Section 403(r)(4)(A)(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343(r)(4)(A)(i)) and 21 CFR 101.70(j)(2), within 100 days of receipt of your petition, the petition will either be filed for comprehensive review or denied. The 100-day period ends on June 23, 2002, and FDA will notify you by letter on or before that date of the disposition of your petition.

Please feel free to contact me at 301-436-1450 if you have questions concerning your petition.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn A. Larsen, Ph.D.
Director
Division of Nutrition Science and Policy
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling
and Dietary Supplements
Center of Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

02P-0292

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