

## FDA All Tribes Call on

### “FDA’s Front-of-Package Nutrition Labeling by the Center for Safety and Applied Nutrition”

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#### Background

On January 8, 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), invited federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to participate in an All-Tribes Call to learn about FDA’s work related to front of package (FOP) nutrition labeling.

FDA, Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) facilitated the tribal engagement on February 9, 2024. IGA and CFSAN welcomed tribal leaders, tribal leader designees, and tribal organizations at 1:00 pm EST, provided an overview of FDA’s FOP label work, and requested tribal feedback.

#### Summary

FOP labels appear on the front of food packages to help people understand a food’s nutrition content. Government-backed FOP labels are widely used around the world (see: Global Research Food Program, UNC-Chapel Hill’s map of front-of-package labels). There are also some FOP labels in the United States that the food industry developed and uses voluntarily. As part of the White House National Strategy on Hunger Nutrition and Health, FDA is developing a proposed standardized FOP label.

A standardized FOP label would complement the Nutrition Facts label, which is the nutrition information typically found on the back or side of food packages. It would show certain nutrition information and give people additional context to help them quickly identify healthier foods. FOP labels can be particularly helpful for busy shoppers and people with lower nutrition knowledge. FDA plans to issue a proposed rule this year that would require the use of FOP labels that display such nutrition information.

FDA garnered feedback from tribal communities about their experiences with and perspectives on standardized FOP labels. These testimonies assisted FDA to better understand a variety of views and inform its proposed rule. FDA elicited testimony related to:

- Tribal members’ experiences with nutrition information on food labels;
- What nutrition information is most important to tribal members to highlight; and
- Tribal members’ experiences with FOP labels.

There were 85 participants, including Tribal officials, Tribal community members, Tribal public health representatives, affiliated programs, and federal FDA participants for the All-Tribes Call. Paul Allis, Senior Intergovernmental / Tribal Affairs Specialist opened the call with a welcome,

land acknowledgement and announcements regarding the flow and expectations of the proceedings. He then discussed the unique government-to-government relationship that federally recognized Tribes have with the federal government and reaffirmed FDA's commitment to robust and meaningful consultation with Tribes. Mr. Allis introduced Donald Prater, Acting Director, CFSAN, who reaffirmed the Center's commitment to upholding the federal trust relationship and addressing the epidemic of preventable diet-related chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. Next, Mr. Prater was joined by colleague, Dr. Robin McKinnon, Senior Science Advisor for Nutrition Policy, who led a presentation on FOP labeling.

Following FDA's presentation, break out room discussions were facilitated by senior policy advisors and CFSAN's Communications and Public Engagement Staff to garner more personal feedback related to FOP nutrition labeling awareness and potential implications or impacts on tribal communities.

There were no additional questions, and the All-Tribes Call was concluded. FDA subsequently posted a recording and of the call on our website and shared it with registrants.