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October 12, 2005

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Division of Dockets Management
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
5630 Fishers Lane/Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: FDA Petition - Docket #2005P-0273
"Petition for Mandatory Calcium Addition to Current Cereal-Grain Enrichment"

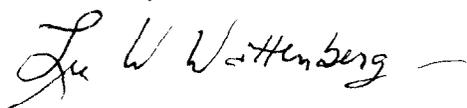
Attention: Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

This citizen's petition was submitted in accordance with Paragraph 10.30, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, to amend certain regulations which currently mandate the addition of five (5) nutrients in the enrichment (or fortification) of cereal grain products in the U.S. The aim in this petition was to add calcium to the current mandatory list, as the sixth item. Calcium addition is currently an optional ingredient, but not largely used in several classes of cereal grain products. Assembled into this petition is what I believe to be excellent rationale and adequate data to justify the low cost modest addition of calcium to the U.S. diet, in order to achieve the much larger health benefits, and reduction in medical treatment costs of at least two common diseases, osteoporosis and colon cancer.

The benefits of the additions requested are that by a conservative estimate they would produce an estimated 20% reduction in risk of osteoporosis and colon cancer, resulting in the prevention of about 11,000 colon cancer deaths and 30,000 colon cancer cases annually, and a similar effect on the reduction of the incidence of osteoporosis. The savings in health care costs are estimated at several billion dollars annually. The cost of calcium enrichment of cereal grain products is estimated to be less than \$30 million annually, or less than 10 cents per person per year in the United States.

In view of the excellent rationale and data justifying the low cost, modest addition of calcium to the U.S. diet in order to achieve large health benefits and reduction in medical costs of at least two common diseases, osteoporosis and colon cancer, we strongly support action for a full and rapid review to the petition leading to its application as an aid to the health of the U.S. population.

Sincerely,



Lee W. Wattenberg, M.D.
Past President American Association for Cancer Research
Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Minnesota

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