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April 25, 2000
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Director for the Center of Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Joseph Levitt
FDA
200 C Street SW
Washington DC 20204

Dear Joseph Levitt,

I am writing because of my concern about the importance of listing the ingredients for "natural flavors" or "natural flavorings." My five-year-old daughter is among those with a life-threatening allergy to peanuts and peanut products. My husband and I diligently read ingredient labels on any food we give her, but I recently learned that "natural flavors" on a label can include peanuts. This is very scary and means we must now call the manufacturers to find out whether they use peanuts if they have listed "natural flavors." Phone numbers for manufacturers are not always listed on the product and sometimes it is hard to reach them during their business hours.

Another concern is that there is no requirement to list possible cross-contamination if the equipment used for a product is also used for products that contain peanuts. Many companies do give this warning, but we're finding many do not. Consumers should be able to trust labels and not have to call the manufacturer to see if there might be peanuts in their products.

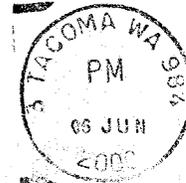
Thank you for your consideration,

Linda N. Burlison

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