

April 24, 2000

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Dr. Jane Henny, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henny:

I urge you to allow non-dairy beverages to be labeled as "milk", and to require milk from cows to be clearly labeled as "cows' milk".

For years, the dairy industry has monopolized the term "milk", and now it has filed a petition to prevent others, especially soy milk producers, from using the word "milk." This is both unfair and unreasonable. In common usage "milk" indicates the function of the substance (lightening coffee, topping cereal, etc.) rather than specifically something that came out of a mammary gland. What will they go after next, milk of magnesia, or the milk of human kindness?

The dairy industry should not be allowed to maintain its monopoly on the use of the word "milk," and in fact, milk from cows should be labeled as "cows' milk," just as soy milk includes the word "soy" on the label.

Please let common sense prevail here and don't let the dairy industry restrict the use of the word "milk."

Sincerely,

Catherine Hess

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