CSPI CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST
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February 5, 2004

Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner McClellan:

Enclosed are approximately 4,900 citizen's petitions signed by consumers concerned by the Food and Drug Administration's failure to adequately protect them from unsafe food.

Specifically, these consumers question the FDA's failure to follow California's lead in banning the sales of unprocessed Gulf Coast shellfish harvested during warmer months. The deadly bacteria contained in such shellfish have been responsible for many illnesses and deaths in the past decade, and effective action by the FDA is urgently needed to prevent countless tragedies in the years to come.

Consumers are also very concerned with the FDA's lack of action regarding the control and elimination of *Salmonella* in eggs at the farm level, failure to ban Quorn products, which are responsible for severe allergic reaction in thousands of consumers, and the administration's failure to establish limits on the amount of cancer-causing acrylamide allowed in foods.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) urges you to listen to concerned consumers and take action in this year to address these food safety hazards. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Caroline Smith DeWaal

Caroline Smith DeWaal
Director, Food Safety

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