

HFA-305



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 27 2004

The Honorable Tom Latham
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Latham:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition to establish the descriptive claims "excellent source," "good source," and "made with" for whole grain content of foods. You stated that the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of the petition would be consistent with the goal of the Department of Health and Human Services to work towards a healthier America and with FDA's Consumer Health Information for Better Nutrition Initiative. The petition, received on May 11, is currently under review at FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

As you may know, guidelines for increased consumption of whole grain foods have been laid out in the *2000 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's *Food Guide Pyramid*. We remain committed to our goal of making available to consumers more and better information about the health benefits of foods. We appreciate your support and commitment to working with us towards a healthier America. Your letter has been forwarded to FDA's Dockets Management Branch to be included as a comment to the petition (2004P-0223).

Thank you again for contacting us concerning this matter. Please call me if you have any further thoughts or questions.

Sincerely,


Tommy G. Thompson

2004P-0223

ANS-3