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1/12/05

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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We are writing this letter to encourage prompt action by FDA on the General Mills Whole Grain Claims Citizens petition filed with FDA on May 11, 2004 (DK/H 2004-0223CP1).

We support consistent, uniform definitions for "good" and "excellent" sources of whole grain. This will give consumers a practical tool to help make sound nutritional choices regarding diet.

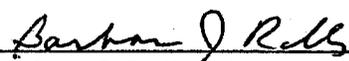
As health/nutrition professionals one of our roles is to teach the American public how to implement dietary guidance. One of those recommendations is to consume more whole grain foods.

The benefits of consuming more whole grains are widely recognized not only by the Department of Health and Human Services and the U. S Department of Agriculture, but also by most health organizations. However, we know that there is a significant gap between the recommended amounts and actual consumption.

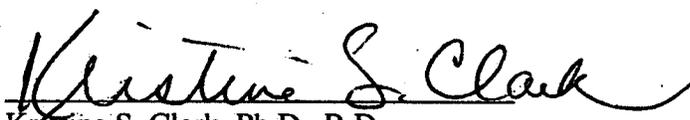
One of the major road blocks to reaching the recommended goals for whole grain consumption is the confusion around how to identify whole grain foods in the marketplace. Uniform definitions for "good" and "excellent" sources of whole grain will give consumers an important tool needed to identify foods that contain significant amounts of whole grain.

We believe prompt action on this petition will allow consumers to take advantage of the important dietary advice to increase the consumption of whole grain foods. We hope that FDA will commence action in advance of the release of the new Dietary Guidelines and Food Guide Pyramid.

Sincerely,


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Professor and Guthrie Chair in Nutrition


Penny M. Kris-Etherton, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Nutrition


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