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Dulce Ben-East
President
Alaska Birch Syrupmakers Association
Post Office Box 877372
Wasilla, Alaska 99867

Re: Docket No. 2005P-0295/CP 1

Dear Ms. Ben-East:

This letter is in response to your citizen petition, dated July 18, 2005, requesting the Food and Drug Administration to initiate rulemaking to establish standards of identity for pure birch syrup and birch breakfast-style syrup using added fructose.

In accordance with Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations 10.30(e)(2), this letter is to advise you that we have not been able to reach a decision on your petition within the first 180 days of its receipt. Because of competing agency priorities and the limited availability of resources, we have not been able to respond to your petition. We hope to be able to complete the review of your petition and respond to your request in the near future.

Should you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara O. Schneeman".

Barbara O. Schneeman, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling
and Dietary Supplements
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

2005P-0295

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