

April 19, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Murray, Heinrich, Granger, and Harris, and Ranking Members Collins, Hoeven, DeLauro, and Bishop,

The undersigned groups, representing members of the food industry and consumer, environmental, and public health interests, write urging you to provide an increase of \$30 million for food chemical re-assessment.

Our groups are united in a shared belief that the American food system would benefit from strong federal oversight of food chemical safety, and we wish to see the FDA working proactively to apply the latest scientific knowledge to make effective regulatory decisions. The FDA should be seen as an effective regulator of food ingredient safety in the United States and a world leader in the science of food chemical safety. Consumers and the food industry should have confidence that the FDA is making critical decisions about chemical safety in the interest of public health, informed by science.

The current presidential request includes a modest increase in the FDA's foods program budget of only \$15 million, spread across the entire foods program. Even if this request is granted in

full, the funding would be insufficient to ensure a rigorous and timely review of the chemical and toxicological issues now pending before the agency. The FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods, Jim Jones, speaking at a recent webinar hosted by the Alliance for a Stronger FDA, estimated that it will cost the FDA between \$1-4 million per reassessment for chemicals that are currently in the food supply and prioritized for review. We therefore believe that an investment of \$30 million will lead to substantial progress in the FDA completing its review of the 21 chemicals currently prioritized for reassessment and taking on additional reassessment activities based on emerging science.

The agency has repeatedly sought increased funding to hire new staff to address emerging chemical and toxicological issues, requesting \$19.7 million from Congress in FY 2022 and FY 2023, and \$5 million in FY 2024. Unfortunately, Congress did not grant these prior requests, and the FDA's foods program budget has remained largely flat over the past three years, accounting for inflation.

We believe that strong federal oversight of food ingredients will provide consumers with confidence in the safety of our food system, as well as offer industry predictability for producing safe and affordable foods for American consumers.

The Alliance for a Stronger FDA, reflecting the views of the larger FDA stakeholder community, has also highlighted food chemical safety as one of the [top FDA funding priorities for FY 25](#). They have stated that "A robust food chemical safety/post-market review program is a pressing need that is supported by a broad range of consumer and industry stakeholders, many of whom view it as their highest food safety funding priority. Additional funding – well beyond the President's budget request – is needed to ensure rigorous and timely review of chemical and toxicological issues now pending before the agency, including 21 chemicals currently prioritized for reassessment. Such reviews can take many months to complete, so there is an urgency to get started and a need for substantial funding in FY 25."

Congress cannot allow the FDA foods program to remain under-resourced. We therefore urge you to provide an additional \$30 million in funding to the FDA in FY 2025 to address food chemical safety.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association
American Spice Trade Association
Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Can Manufacturers Institute
Cargill, Inc.
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Food Safety
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports

Corn Refiners Association
Council for Responsible Nutrition
Danone North America
Environmental Working Group
Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association
Independent Bakers Association
International Association of Color Manufacturers
International Dairy Foods Association
International Food Additives Council
Mamavation
Mars, Inc.
Mondelez International
National Center for Health Research
National Confectioners Association
National Environmental Health Association
Nestle, USA
Sustainable Food Policy Alliance
Unilever United States