



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 29 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Consistent with our efforts to keep the Committee informed of our ongoing activities, this letter is to advise you that the management and coordination of Child Nutrition (CN) labeling review activities will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

CN labeling is a voluntary program in which food manufacturers apply to FNS for a CN label for each food product they wish to market with a CN label. FNS reviews the product formulations and proposed labels, provides ongoing feedback to manufacturers on required adjustments, and maintains an extensive document management system to track requests, approvals, and denials. Due to budget constraints, FNS no longer has adequate staff resources to support this function. Therefore, AMS will begin performing label review and approval activities on a fee-for-service basis. FNS will retain overall program administration authority. This transfer will allow this important program to continue despite staffing constraints at FNS. We will begin efforts to transfer the program in May 2009 by providing the necessary training to AMS employees.

To support the transition, FNS will reimburse AMS for initial training, education, and technological support. Thereafter, resources generated by a fee-for-service program in AMS will allow adequate staffing and technological support for efficient program operation. No reassignment of personnel will be necessary.

Thank you for your continued support of a variety of USDA programs. A similar letter is being sent to Senator Kohl, Senator Brownback, and Congressman Kingston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Vilsack".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 29 2009

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Congressman Kingston:

Consistent with our efforts to keep the Committee informed of our ongoing activities, this letter is to advise you that the management and coordination of Child Nutrition (CN) labeling review activities will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



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Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 29 2009

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6026

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Consistent with our efforts to keep the Committee informed of our ongoing activities, this letter is to advise you that the management and coordination of Child Nutrition (CN) labeling review activities will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

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Thank you for your continued support of a variety of USDA programs. A similar letter is being sent to Senator Brownback, Congresswoman DeLauro, and Congressman Kingston.

Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 29 2009

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6026

Dear Senator Brownback:

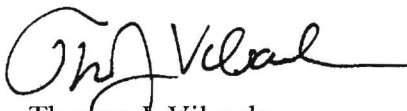
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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary