



SAFE FOOD COALITION

August 3, 2011

Division of Dockets Management
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #FDA-2011-N-0179

The members of the Make Our Food Safe Coalition and the Safe Food Coalition appreciate the opportunity to comment on the prior notice provisions of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).¹

Our coalitions support the interim final rule published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2011. Imported foods constitute an ever-increasing percentage of American diets. We believe that the revised FSMA prior-notice provision, which requires a person submitting prior notice of imported food to report the name of any country that has denied entry to an article of food to be imported into the U.S., will help the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to better assure the safety of food imports. This provision is a small but essential part of the larger, comprehensive system for regulating imports – including new responsibilities for importers and increased inspections of foreign food processing facilities – established in FSMA.

We expect to have additional comments on the use of prior notice in the context of specific provisions in the FSMA, such as the provisions governing imported food, and we will raise those issues as appropriate during subsequent opportunities for public comment on those provisions.

¹ The following groups have endorsed these comments: American Public Health Association, Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Food & Water Watch, Government Accountability Project, National Consumers League, the Pew Health Group, and STOP Foodborne Illness (formerly S.T.O.P. – Safe Tables Our Priority).