



SAFE FOOD COALITION

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0703

Dear Representative DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Make Our Food Safe Coalition and the Safe Food Coalition, representing consumer and public health groups, trade unions and victims of foodborne illness, write to urge you to ensure that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) receives adequate funding to fully implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Failure to provide FDA with the resources it needs to make FSMA's promise a reality would significantly impede the agency's ability to protect public health and would undermine its ability to prevent food safety problems instead of just react to them.

Under FSMA, which was widely supported by the public and the food industry, the FDA must ensure that food manufacturers develop prevention-based food safety plans, must increase its inspection of food facilities, and must establish a new system that provides better oversight of the safety of the growing amount of imported food.

In a 2011 national survey funded by the Pew Health Group, two out of three likely voters support additional funding for the FDA to carry out its new responsibilities related to food safety.¹ Based on FDA estimates, we understand that the agency will need an additional \$75-80 million in FY2013 to implement the most important aspects of the new food safety system.

The FDA performs an essential government function – it ensures that food produced here and overseas is safe. By failing to provide the agency with sufficient funds to do its job, everyone – consumers and the food industry – will be harmed.

Sincerely,

American Public Health Association
Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Consumer Federation of America
Food & Water Watch
National Consumers League
The Pew Charitable Trusts
STOP Foodborne Illness
Trust for America's Health
U.S. PIRG

¹ <http://www.makeourfoodsafe.org/news?id=0065>.