



May 21, 2018

Ms. Roberta Wagner, Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development
USDA - Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 350-E JWB
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ms. Wagner:

The Conference for Food Protection (CFP/Conference) recently completed its 2018 Biennial Meeting in Boise, ID. This meeting was a great success, and I would like to personally thank you and USDA for their participation and contribution to the success of the 2018 Biennial Meeting. USDA's continued support for CFP and the CFP process demonstrates that food safety is indeed an achievable goal.

As you are aware the mission of the Conference for Food Protection (CFP/Conference) is to promote food safety through collaboration and partnership among federal, state, and local regulatory agencies; the food industry; academia; and consumer organizations. The three Councils deliberated on a total of 94 Issues. Of these, the Assembly of State Delegates (a group of representatives from 48 States, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands) accepted 86 of the Councils' recommendations. There were two Issues that pertained to USDA-FSIS.

As described in the Conference Procedures and addressed in our MOU with USDA, the Conference Chair must convey any recommendations related to the USDA and request written response from the USDA to those recommendations within 60 days of receipt.

The following are the aforementioned Issues with a brief recommendation for your consideration:

Issue 2018-I-012 - Amend Food Code - Harmonize Labeling for Mechanically Tenderized Beef

Recommendation: "A letter be sent to the FDA and USDA/FSIS requesting that they work collectively to develop language in Paragraph 3-602.11(B) Food Labels that reflects the labeling requirements in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 317 Labeling, Marking Devices, and Containers, as it relates to "mechanically tenderized" and "injected meat."

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Issue 2018-III-021- Cooking/Heating Commercially Processed Not RTE Food

Recommendation: "A letter to be sent to FDA and USDA requesting that a Not Ready-To-Eat and Ready-To-Eat guidance document be crafted by the FDA and USDA and a status report be given by the FDA and USDA to the CFP at the 2020 Biennial Meeting.

USDA's support of and cooperation with the Conference through the years has resulted in an improved regulatory process and increased efforts toward food safety. The CFP Executive Board looks forward to continuing this collaboration with USDA in the coming months and years. With such a productive partnership, we expect to continue the great progress of the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. David Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. David Lawrence, Chair
Conference for Food Protection

Cc: William K. Shaw, Jr. PhD, Director, Risk, Innovations, and Management Staff,
USDA/FSIS/OPPD
CFP Executive Board