

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Hoeven
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 Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

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

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
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 Collins, Hoeven, Cole, and Harris, and Ranking Members Murray, Shaheen, 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 reassessment. This renews a request many of our organizations made last year for FDA's FY 2025 budget, and aligns with the new Administration's focus on the safety of food ingredients.

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.

Over the past year, the FDA has taken several actions that demonstrate their interest in enhancing their food chemical reassessment activities, but additional resources will be needed to for a

rigorous and timely review of the chemical and toxicological issues now pending before the agency. Given the priorities expressed by the new leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services and the FDA, we anticipate acceleration of activity in this space, but more resources will be needed to meet the growing consumer demand for greater oversight. Previously, Human Foods Program leadership estimated that it will cost between \$1 and \$4 million per reassessment for chemicals that are currently in the food supply and that FDA has 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, \$5 million in FY 2024, and \$4.5 million in FY 2025. 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.

Congress cannot allow the FDA foods program to remain under-resourced. We therefore renew the request many of our organizations made last year and urge you to provide an additional \$30 million in funding to the FDA in FY 2026 to address food chemical safety.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Chemical Distribution
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Calorie Control Council
Can Manufacturers Institute
Cargill
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Danone North America
Environmental Working Group
Independent Bakers Association
International Association of Color Manufacturers
International Dairy Foods Association
International Food Additives Council
Mars, Inc.
Mondelēz International
National Confectioners Association
National Environmental Health Association
Nestle, USA
Sustainable Food Policy Alliance