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May 20, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2215

The Honorable Bart Stupak  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2352 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2201

Dear Congressmen Dingell and Stupak:

This responds to the Committee's letter dated May 6, 2008 regarding the presence of bisphenol A (BPA) in some of our packaging components. Mead Johnson Nutritionals has been fully committed to the health and nutrition of infants and children for over 100 years and takes every safety concern seriously.

Health agencies around the world continue to support the safety of BPA used in product packaging, including the European Food Safety Authority, the Japanese National Institute for Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. We have reviewed these findings, and the opinions of those challenging them, and agree that a vast amount of data supports the safety of BPA at levels currently found in food and formula packaging.

The National Toxicology Program Draft Brief revised their risk assessment from "minimal" concern to "some" concern as it relates to neural and behavioral effects in fetuses, infants, and children at current human exposures. They suggest that further study is required and we support that position. Also noted in Table 1 of their report was that the highest level of BPA found in liquid infant formula (6.6 parts per billion) is very close to the highest level detected in U.S. breast milk (6.3 parts per billion).

We have been working very closely with Health Canada as they continue to assess the safety and protective functions of epoxy resins containing BPA. In a statement by the Minister when issuing the draft assessment on April 18, 2008, Health Canada assured the



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public that, based on all of the assessments conducted to date, it has been concluded that the potential exposure to BPA from food packaging applications is extremely low and does not represent a health risk to consumers. Further, Health Canada emphasized that "the nutritional benefits of canned infant formula far outweigh the risk of exposure to bisphenol A." We continue to work with them on this matter.

We are confident in the safety of our current packaging materials; however, we will continue to evaluate packaging alternatives to address consumer concerns. As with any revision to our products, alternative packaging materials must undergo rigorous testing of safety and protective functions before they can be approved. We are committed to providing the best possible product to our consumers and will strive to meet their needs.

We share your concern that parents should be assured that our products do not pose any risk to their children, either immediate or longer term. In fact, it is important to avoid creating an unnecessary panic which may lead some parents to inadequate infant nutrition alternatives such as plain cow's milk. We believe that the appropriate regulatory and scientific bodies should be allowed to conduct their reviews as quickly as possible. We also believe that caution should be used when suggesting a potential transition from packaging materials that have a long track record of safety. BPA has been used safely in packaging for over 50 years and we must be certain that any new materials will provide the same level of performance and overall safety. You have our commitment that the benefits and safety data of any new packaging material will be carefully weighed and that we will continue to ensure the safety and nutritional quality of our products.

In closing, we appreciate your efforts and would be pleased to have representatives from our company meet with members of your staff.

Sincerely,



Dirk Hondmann, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President, Global Research & Development

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2109 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4306

The Honorable John Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2452 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
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