



May 20, 2008

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
U. S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Stupak,

This response is sent in reference to your May 8, 2008 letter, requesting information on issues related to the safety of the Nation's food supply.

Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc. is a grower cooperative located in South Central Pennsylvania, with five plants in Pennsylvania, one in Michigan, and one in West Virginia. All seven plants are located in close proximity to orchards owned by growers, many of whom are members of our cooperative.

All products produced at our plants are high acid products, with ph values of less than 4.25. Most of our products are in the range of ph values of 3.3-4.0. This range of ph values provides natural protection from toxic organisms such as Clostridium Botulinum. While E.Coli form can grow in acidic products, its tolerance to heat processing is low, so any E.Coli form found in raw fruit is destroyed as our high acid products are processed at temperatures in excess of 160 F.

As to your specific questions,

1. A list of food recalls and food safety alerts issued by our company on or after January 1, 2000.

Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc. has not issued any food recalls or food safety alerts during the time specified.

2. For each brand or kind of product, list all instances when internal microbiological testing was found to be positive for the presence of *E.Coli form*, *Salmonella*, *Cyclospora cayetunensis*, *Cryptosporidium*, hepatitis A, *Clostridium botulinum*, or *Listeria* in excess of the highest limit acceptable to FDA or any State regulatory authority on or after January 1, 2000.

Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc. has not found as part of our internal testing programs a positive test for any of the noted species, in any of our brands or kinds of products during the time specified.

MUSSELMAN'S • LUCKY LEAF • APPLE TIME • SPEAS FARM • LINCOLN

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
May 20, 2008
Page two

3. For each brand or kind of product, list the instances when internal testing was found to be positive for the presence of a chemical contaminant at levels in excess of the highest limit acceptable to FDA or any State regulatory authority on or after January 1, 2000
Chemical contaminants as defined in the United States Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA/CFSAN) website <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/pestadd.html> , have not been detected at levels in excess of highest acceptable limits in any of our products during the time specified.
4. For products imported into the United States for handling or processing by any facility operated by our firm, list the instances when internal or outside laboratory testing was positive for the presence of either a chemical or microbiological contaminant in excess of FDA or State regulatory limits on or after January 1, 2000.
Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc. does import several ingredients from foreign countries, such as Apple Juice Concentrate from China and Germany, Ascorbic Acid from China, Strawberries from Mexico, and Citric Acid from China. All imported products are tested, and no microbial or chemical contaminants in excess of FDA or State regulatory limits were found during the time specified.
5. For each of the above items, please specify whether FDA was notified, and if not, why not.
FDA was not notified of any regulatory issues relating to Chemical or Microbiological issues concerning the above items, since no issues were encountered.
6. Please supply a list of all instances where FDA or any State regulatory agency was denied entrance to any facility, foreign or domestic, or denied access to any records regarding microbiological or chemical testing performed on products processed at the facility on or after January 1, 2000.
Neither FDA nor any State regulatory agency was denied access to our facilities during the time specified.

Sincerely,

KNOUSE FOODS COOPERATIVE, INC.



Ken Guise
President and CEO