



Consumer Federation of America

December 8, 2010

Dear Representative:

We write to urge you to vote in favor of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, which will be considered today as part of the Continuing Resolution, H.R. 3082. The House of Representatives approved similar food safety legislation by a two-thirds majority on July 30, 2009 and it was approved by the Senate, 75-23, on November 30, 2010. This legislation is an important step toward reducing the high toll of foodborne illness in the United States and helping restore public confidence in the safety of our food supply.

Under current food safety laws the FDA, for the most part, responds to foodborne illness after people have gotten sick or died. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act shifts the FDA's efforts to focus on steps to prevent illnesses from occurring. The legislation:

- Requires preventive controls for large food processing facilities;
- Sets produce safety standards for farms;
- Provides minimum inspection frequencies;
- Requires imported food to be as safe as that produced in the U.S.; and
- Grants mandatory recall authority for the FDA.

This legislation is supported not only by consumer and public health organizations but by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and major food industry companies and trade associations. As presented to the House it includes the "Tester Amendment" that exempts from process control requirements certain small food producers and processors who sell the majority of their food directly to consumers within a limited area.

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act will make an important contribution to a universally supported goal—the reduction of illnesses and death caused by contaminated food. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Tucker-Foreman
Distinguished Fellow, Food Policy Institute

Chris Waldrop
Director, Food Policy Institute