



January 4, 2002

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FSIS Docket Room
Docket #00-023N
Room 102 Cotton Annex
300 12th Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Re: Docket #00-023N: FSIS Draft Risk Assessment for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Ground Beef

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Meat Institute (AMI) is the national organization representing the interests of meat and poultry slaughterers and processors and their suppliers throughout North America. AMI's members produce the majority of meat and poultry products manufactured in the United States. AMI is preparing comments on the above-referenced Draft Risk Assessment prepared by the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

We respectfully request that you permit our comments to arrive after the due date of January 4, 2002. A draft of our comments is currently under review by the appropriate committees within AMI, and will be submitted to the Dockets Room in a timely manner. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please call me at 703-841-2400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Huffman".

Randall Huffman, Ph.D.
Vice President
Scientific Affairs