

January 2,2002

FSIS Docket Clerk Docket **#01-018P** Room 102, Cotton Annex 300 C Street, SW Washington, DC 20250-3700

01-018P 01-018P-12 Wendy L. Gramm; Susan E. Dudley

Reference: Docket #01-018P

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find enclosed comments on "*Definitions and Standards of Identity or Composition: Elimination & the Pizza Standard*" that we have prepared in response to U. S. Department of Agriculture's request for comment dated November 2,2001 (Federal Register: Volume 66, Number 213, p. 55601).

The Regulatory Studies Program (RSP) of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University is dedicated to advancing knowledge of regulations and their impacts on society. As part of its mission, RSP produces careful and independent analyses of agency rulemaking proposals from the perspective of the public interest. This comment on the USDA's proposal to eliminate the pizza standard, does not represent the views of any particular affected party or special interest group, but is designed to evaluate the effect of the Agency's proposals on consumer welfare.

The Regulatory Studies Program appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposal to eliminate the pizza standard.

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Wendy L. **Gramm**, Director Regulatory Studies Program

Susan E. Dudley Senior Research Fellow

Enclosure: a/s