

97-013?

Attention: **Maryann Elbertson**

Date: 9/10/01

Company: U.S. Department of Ag.

Number of Pages: 3

Fax Number: 1-202-720-5704

Voice Number:

From: **Curtis Baker-Krofft**

2722

Company: Dayspring House

Fax Number: 503-581-2599

Voice Number: 503-581-2599

97-013P-2722
97-013P
Curtis and Nancy
Baker-Krofft

Subject: Listeria Safeguards Urgently Needed!

Comments:

My name is Nancy Baker-Krofft. I live in Salem, Oregon. In April of 1993, I experienced Listeriosis and being pregnant at the time it killed my firstborn son, Wilson Baker-Krofft on April 11th, 1993. He was only allowed 10 minutes of life, despite being a large and healthy, viable-age fetus when he was exposed to the bacteria in utero.

I am an educated woman, a teacher with a Masters Degree. I thought I had been warned of any known dangers to unborn children, and I took every precaution. It took until I had reached the age of 37 to get pregnant, and his father and I were looking forward to the joy of his birth before the nightmare of Listeria took over our lives

September 10, 2001
825 15th Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

**TESTIMONY TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY DEPARTMENT
RE: LISTERIA SAFEGARDS REQUEST, in title
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS for the PRODUCTION of
PROCESSED MEAT and POULTRY PRODUCTS**

Dear persons of Food Safety:

I write today to firmly request stricter standards of safety in The United States on Listeria. I never knew of this harm until it robbed me of my first born son, Wilson Baker-Kroff. Since 1993, when we became victims, I have become a much more informed person on the subject, and am grateful for this opportunity today to bare down on the political process that will affect untold lives in the future based on what is decided on this matter. The industry may speak to you of dollars and bottom line, of standards that will let few tainted products through to the consumer...but are any of you reading my testimony willing to risk even one of your children in exchange for expediency?

After experiencing and researching Listeria, I find that the industry has moved too slowly, and cautiously to warn the public where there have been known sources and outbreaks. Even our public protectors at your USDA have not pushed hard enough. When I can go into a nice, clean grocery store to buy roast beef, and come down with a heartbreaking loss ...an 8 year old 3rd Grader he would be now... and his loss and potential my have done the world a great loss...there is something wrong with the system of safeguarding the food supply in our country.

When Clinton proposed these increased standards, I wrote to thank him. When a new administration took over I was afraid for the future of these regulations, but as they are being reviewed now for a decision I hope you will keep in mind the children and other lives affected by deadly Listeria M. and not let political Consideration sway your decisions. Thank you very much.

**Mrs. Nancy Baker-Kroff
(503)581-2599
(503) 851-3937
dyspring@teleport.com**