ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515–6115

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

July 31, 2007

Ms. Barbara Harloe
Chair
Association of Food Industries, Inc.
3301 Route 66, Suite 205, Building C
Neptune, NJ 07753

Dear Ms. Harloe:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are conducting an investigation into the safety of the Nation's food supply.

The Committee recently learned of a private laboratory test proposal entitled, "New York District and Los Angeles District Import Pilot Test: Enhanced Application of Accredited Private Laboratory Testing Associated with Import Product Surveillance Sampling." This pilot test proposal was created by the National Coalition of Food Importing Associations, of which the Association of Food Industries is a member. The objective of the pilot test is "to evaluate the use of private independent laboratory testing, as an alternative to FDA testing, for surveillance coverage of FDA regulated food entries."

We are very concerned about the consequences of FDA contracting out surveillance sampling, as well as other FDA food sampling, to private laboratories. Accordingly, to assist us in our investigation of the safety of the Nation's food supply, we request that you provide all records relating to the Association of Food Industries' activities pertaining to private laboratory sampling designed to replace sampling currently being performed by FDA. This request includes, but is not limited to, all records relating to the pilot test proposal cited above. Further, we also request that you furnish a list of all of your members that have been active in questions pertaining to private sector sampling designed to replace sampling currently undertaken by FDA. Please note that, for the purpose of responding to the above request, the terms "records" and "relating" should be interpreted in accordance with the attachment to this letter.

We request you supply all requested information no later than the close of business two weeks from the date of this letter. If you have any questions relating to this request, please contact David Nelson or Kevin Barstow with the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell
Chairman

Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
        Committee on Energy and Commerce

        The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Ranking Member
        Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations