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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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

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August 13, 2007

DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF  
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Mr. Robert Ehrlich  
President  
Robert's American Gourmet Food, Inc.  
P.O. Box 326  
Sea Cliff, NY 11579

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

Under 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 investigating the safety of the Nation's food supply. The recent outbreak of *Salmonella* in Veggie Booty snack food is of particular interest in this investigation.

To assist us in this investigation, we request that you provide the following information, along with all related documents:

1. How and when did Robert's American Gourmet first become aware of the *Salmonella* contamination of its Veggie Booty snack food?
2. Where and when was the *Salmonella* contamination first detected?
3. When did Robert's American Gourmet first notify or was notified by Federal, State, and local officials about the contamination?
4. According to a press release issued by Robert's American Gourmet on July 2, 2007, Robert's American Gourmet expanded its recall to include Super Veggie Tings Crunchy Corn Sticks snack food. Were any other products of Robert's American Gourmet affected?

5. Please provide the names of all companies to which Robert's American Gourmet has shipped snack food products in the last 12 months and the dates on which Robert's American Gourmet notified those companies of any suspected contamination. Please provide copies of all correspondence with those companies pertaining to suspected contamination.
6. Please identify and describe the source of the contamination.
7. What steps has Robert's American Gourmet taken to prevent further outbreaks of *Salmonella* contamination in its products?
8. When was the last inspection of Robert's American Gourmet's production facility by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and State and local food safety officials? Please provide the dates of such inspections and the names of the officials, as well as all documents associated with those inspections and ongoing inspections. Please also provide all records relating to such inspections of Robert's American Gourmet's production facility for five years prior to June 28, 2007.
9. Please provide copies of all Robert's American Gourmet internal protocols and standards for monitoring and testing of its snack food products, including the dates and copies of the results of such monitoring and testing that tested positive for microbiological contamination for five years prior to June 28, 2007.

Please note that, for the purpose of responding to these requests, 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 us, or have your staff contact David Nelson or Kevin Barstow with the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell  
Chairman



Bart Stupak  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Mr. Robert Ehrlich  
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Attachment

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

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

## ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to, the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.
2. The terms "relating," or "relate" as to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, identifies, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject, including but not limited to records concerning the preparation of other records.