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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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February 21, 2008

DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
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Mr. Bill Christopher
Christopher Ranch
305 Bloomfield Avenue
Gilroy, CA 95020

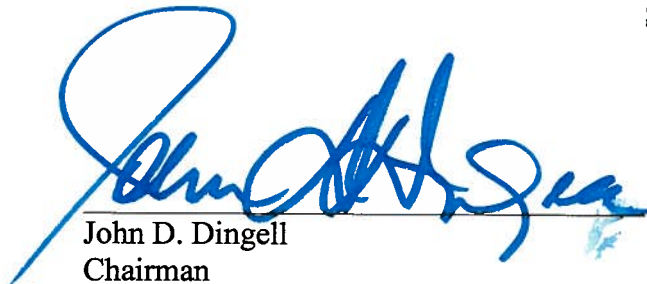
Dear Mr. Christopher:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are conducting an investigation into the safety of the Nation's food supply. The recent detection of a dangerous pesticide in imported Chinese ginger is of particular interest in this investigation.

We appreciate your taking the time to speak with Committee staff regarding this issue. To further assist us in this investigation, we request that you provide all records relating to Christopher Ranch's purchase of the imported Chinese garlic and ginger containing pesticides for the five years prior to the date of this letter. Please note that, for the purpose of responding to this request, the terms "records" and "relating" should be interpreted in accordance with the attachment to this letter.

We request you supply all requested information by no later than the close of business on Friday, February 22, 2008. If you have any questions about 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

Mr. Bill Christopher
Page 2

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

The Honorable John Shimkus, 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.