

From: Glavin, Margaret
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 3:18 PM
To: ORA All Employees
Subject: message from ACRA

Dear Colleagues:

This week a Congressional hearing focused on FDA's role in protecting the safety of the food supply, especially imported foods, and on the ORA Transformation plans. At the hearing there was widespread acknowledgement that FDA needs additional resources and authorities to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, but there was also strong criticism of FDA's performance in carrying out our mission.

One panel of witnesses was asked to rate FDA's level of performance on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the highest. All but one of the panelists rated FDA at a five or below. I am deeply saddened by this assessment because I know that it is not an accurate reflection of ORA's performance, and I appreciate how dedicated you are and how hard you work each and every day to accomplish our mission to protect Americans. I know that many of you were also disappointed, and perhaps even angry, at this erroneous assessment.

I am proud of ORA and of the work that we do. And I am proud of the fact that we have taken a hard look at ourselves and are planning for how we can reach an even higher level of excellence in our 2nd century of service to America. I hope that you too will remain proud of our accomplishments and remain committed to continually improving how we serve the American people.

Thank you for all that you do.

Maggie

Margaret O'K. Glavin
Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs