



550 BOWIE STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78703
WWW.WHOLEFOODSMARKET.COM
WHOLE FOODS. WHOLE PEOPLE. WHOLE PLANET.

November 13, 2006
Dr. William S. Stokes
NICEATM Director
NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
MD EC-17
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

As the world's leading retailer of natural and organic foods, Whole Foods Market offers natural and organic products because we believe that food in its purest state — unadulterated by artificial additives, sweeteners, colorings, and preservatives — is the best tasting and most nutritious food available. A growing body of research has recently suggested that the packaging in which a food is placed can be just as important to its safety and integrity as the ingredients from which it is made. As you know, a growing body of research suggests that a number of food packaging materials may leach estrogenic materials into foods and other products.

In order to assess the safety of packaging materials and fully understand the processes by which packaging materials affect the quality and safety of food products, it is necessary that a reliable assay be validated; Certichem, Inc.'s MCF-7 is such an assay. This test has shown to be accurate, reliable, and useful in evaluating the estrogenic activity of a variety of food packaging substances, and should be considered a high priority for ICCVAM validation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Dickson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph Dickson
Quality Standards Coordinator
Whole Foods Market, Inc.
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Email: joe.dickson@wholefoos.com