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**Mark D. Dopp**  
Senior Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel

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December 20, 2001

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 102 Cotton Annex Building  
300 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

01-018P  
01-018P-3  
**Mark D. Dopp**

**Re: Docket No. 01-018P: Definitions and Standards of Identity or Composition: Elimination of the Pizza Standard**

Dear Sir or Madam:

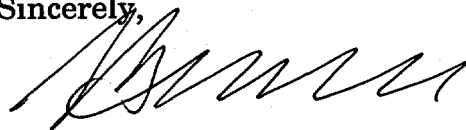
On November 2, 2001, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS or the agency) published in the Federal Register the above-referenced docket concerning proposed amendments to the standard of identity for pizza. For the reasons provided below, the American Meat Institute (AMI) respectfully requests that the comment period for this proposal be extended 60 days, to March 4, 2002.

AMI is the nation's oldest and largest trade association representing packers and processors of beef, pork, lamb, veal, turkey, and processed meat products in the United States. Our member companies produce more than 90 percent of meat products in the U.S. In that regard, many AMI member companies have a very significant interest in the proposed rule.

A 60-day extension is warranted because the comment period for the proposal commenced and will end during the holiday season, making it difficult to gather input from all interested parties. Because the proposal could have broad implications on the future role of standards of identity for all meat and poultry products, AMI needs, and is asking for, additional time to consider and discuss the overall impact of this regulation. Accordingly, AMI respectfully requests an extension of the comment period by 60 days.

**Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this request or would like to discuss the issues discussed in this letter, please contact me.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Dopp', written in a cursive style.

**Mark D. Dopp  
Senior Vice President Regulatory Affairs  
and General Counsel**

cc: **J. Patrick Boyle  
Skip Seward  
Lynn Kosty**