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April 27, 2006

Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street, SW
Room 102, Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250

04-006P-15
04-006P
Deborah R. White

Re: Request for Extension of Comment Period for Proposed Rule To Publish Lists of Retail Consignees During Meat or Poultry Product Recalls; Docket No. 04-006P

Dear Sir or Madam,

Pursuant to the request made by the Food Marketing Institute¹ (FMI) and others at the April 24, 2006 public meeting, the purpose of this letter is to provide a written request to the docket asking the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to extend the comment period on the referenced proposal regarding the Agency's intention to publish the retail consignee lists that the Agency may obtain during a meat or poultry recall. 71 Fed. Reg. 11326 (March 7, 2006). Currently, the comment period closes on May 8, 2006. However, significant information was presented at the April 24 meeting from both FSIS and the public that must be considered in the preparation of our comments.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that FSIS post the transcript of the public meeting on the Agency's website as quickly as possible and extend the comment period for the proposed regulation for 60 days after the transcript has been made available. Our members must have access to the information presented at the public meeting in order to formulate their comments on the proposal.

¹ FMI conducts programs in research, education, industry relations and public affairs on behalf of its 1,500 member companies — food retailers and wholesalers — in the United States and around the world. FMI's U.S. members operate approximately 26,000 retail food stores with a combined annual sales volume of \$340 billion — three-quarters of all retail food store sales in the United States. FMI's retail membership is composed of large multi-store chains, regional firms and independent supermarkets. Its international membership includes 200 companies from 50 countries.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
April 27, 2006
Page 2

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah R. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Deborah R. White
Vice President &
Associate General Counsel