



National Grocers Association

April 27, 2006

Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street SW
Room 102 Cotton Annex
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Availability of Lists of Retail Consignees During Meat or Poultry Product Recalls

Docket No. 04-006P

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) is requesting an extension of the comment period for the proposed rule issued by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on the Availability of Lists of Retail Consignees During Meat or Poultry Recalls, 71. Fed. Reg. 11326 (March 7, 2006), for a period of sixty days following the publication of the transcript of the public meeting held by FSIS on April 24, 2006. N.G.A. appreciated the opportunity to participate in the meeting. The comment period is currently set to close on May 8, 2006. N.G.A. is the national trade association that represents exclusively the interests of independent community-focused grocery retailers and wholesalers. N.G.A. retail and wholesale members accounted for approximately \$200 billion of U.S. grocery sales last year. N.G.A. intends to submit detailed comments in response to the proposed rule. The current comment period does not provide enough time to comprehensively address issues raised at the public meeting. Granting this extension will provide all interested parties with adequate time to incorporate the issues discussed at the public meeting into their comments.

We thank FSIS for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Wenning
Senior Vice President and General Counsel