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September 7, 2001

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket No. 97-013P
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Room 102
Cotton Annex
300 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20250-3700

2700

97-013P-2700
97-013P
Gina Harpur

Re: Docket No. 97-103P: "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products"

To Whom It May Concern:

Juanita's Foods opposes the sections of the proposed rule that would significantly change the manner in which thermally processed, commercially sterile products are regulated. Specifically, Juanita's Foods opposes inclusion of 9 CFR Part 430.5 and associated definitions contained in 9 CFR Part 430.1 in the proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on February 27, 2001.

The proposed rule to change the way thermally processed, commercially sterile products are regulated is unnecessary, burdensome and not justified based on the exemplary safety record of the industry. Juanita's Foods believes the proposed wholesale changes to the existing regulations are unwarranted and respectfully requests FSIS withdraw sections of the proposed rule that pertain to thermally processed, commercially sterile products. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Gina Harpur
President