



National Pecan Shellers Association

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Via Federal Express

November 15, 2002

Michael A. Adams, Ph.D.
Acting Director, Division of Nutrition Science and Policy
Office of Nutritional Products Labeling & Dietary Supplements
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Dr. Adams:

The National Pecan Shellers Association (NPSA) is writing to express its strong support for approval of a health claim on the ability of all nuts to reduce the risk of CHD. The petition for such a claim submitted by the International Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research and Education Foundation (INCNREF) documents the extensive scientific evidence-- including clinical trials and epidemiology studies -- supporting the cardioprotective properties of nuts. This research is summarized in the attached white paper developed by a coalition of tree nut organizations, including the NPSA.

The health benefits of consuming pecans and other nuts have long been misunderstood by consumers. Today, science clearly demonstrates that nuts and other foods high in unsaturated fat can play an important role in a healthy diet. The allowance of a health claim to communicate these important benefits will lead to better-informed consumers and make a positive contribution to public health.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell A. Lemieux', written in a cursive style.

Russell A. Lemieux
Executive Director

Enclosure

02P-0292

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Pecans. So Good. So Good for You.