

August 2, 2001

Dockets Mgt. Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20857
202-205-3567 (registration)
301-827-6870 & 202-205-5295 (F)

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Re: Registration for the Labeling Food Allergens Meeting

To Whom It Concerns:

By this letter mailed and faxed to you today, I am requesting registration for the Food and Drug Administration's Public Meeting with respect to the "Challenge of Labeling Food Allergens" scheduled for August 13, 2001. I am an attorney and mother of a food allergic child whose allergy is severe enough to require me to monitor the ingredients of her diet with great care. As an attorney, I have evaluated the regulatory context for food labeling in detail and have worked with the New York Attorney General's office in their effort to draft a petition seeking new FDA rules in this area. I also work with other parents and interest groups on this issue and will consider joining a panel presentation on these issues to conserve time in the meeting and enhance your record in this respect. Finally, with others from around the United States, I made a presentation to FDA staff in September of 2000 in Washington, DC on this subject.

I request 20 minutes for my presentation, but hope that you recognize that as part of a panel, I may need a bit more time to express my views and answer the questions that you have raised in your Federal Register notice. As I have expressed to you before, I recommend that FDA adopt new rules that would require food manufacturers to:

- disclose all ingredients including incidental additives and natural flavorings
- institute procedures to minimize cross-contamination
- provide a toll-free telephone number on food labels for consumers seeking detailed processing and/or ingredient information
- include warning label or insignia noting potential allergen content

My comments will discuss these issues and others that you raised in the Federal Register notice of July 25, 2001. Thank you in advance for reserving some time for my presentation.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Trethewey
Ms. Catherine Trethewey

cc: NYNAAG

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