



DEC - 8 2000

Michael Gochfeld, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Department of Environmental & Community Medicine
675 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

Dear Dr. Gochfeld:

I want to thank you for your letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D., dated November 6, 2000, expressing your views on the important issue of methylmercury in fish.

Be assured that FDA is giving careful consideration to all of the stakeholders' points, including your specific suggestions relating to development of a surveillance program for contaminants in commercial fish and review of FDA's current 1.0 parts per million (ppm) methylmercury action level.

We will keep you informed of our progress on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Levitt".

Joseph A. Levitt
Director
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition