

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

KEEP AMERICA'S FOOD SAFE
CO-SPONSOR
THE SAFE FOOD ENFORCEMENT, ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS AND TARGETING ACT
(Safe FEAST Act)

Dear Colleague,

With nearly 25,000 suspected cases of food borne illness in our country in 2006, consumer confidence in the safety of their food has dropped substantially. While American food still continues to be among the safest in the world, recent incidences of food-borne illness and extensive product recalls have highlighted deficiencies in our food safety system.

Our governing food safety authorities are outdated and must be adjusted to reflect modern scientific standards and sound and strong policies implemented to help prevent food contamination. In addition, American consumer food preferences and options continue to evolve. Increased consumption of pre-made, ready to eat product and rising food imports require Congress and the Administration to modernize our food safety net.

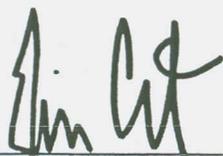
The Safe Food Enforcement, Assessment, Standards and Targeting Act, (Safe FEAST Act), would help ensure the highest level of food safety standards in our nation's food supply, both for goods produced domestically and those imported from abroad. It would put into place new mandatory food safety requirements to identify and prevent potential sources of food-borne illness. The bill will focus on strengthening preventative measures, building upon existing regulations with tough new industry standards and expanding the tools the Secretary has to remedy food safety incidents.

The heart of an effective and efficient food safety program is prevention. The Safe FEAST Act place new mandatory food safety requirements on farm and food companies, domestically and abroad, to identify and prevent potential sources of food-borne illness, implementing the principles of risk assessment and risk management. Establishing new standards for fruits and vegetables, the bill updates and improves Good Agricultural Practices for safe production and provides for science-based regulations for products that pose greater risk. Additionally, each food facility will be required to conduct a food safety risk analysis that identifies potential sources of contamination, outlines appropriate food safety controls, and documents in food safety plan subject to FDA review. To ensure that food products coming into the United States from international sources are safe, imported goods would have to adhere to the same safety and quality standards as set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), through a *Foreign Suppliers Safety Assurance Program*.

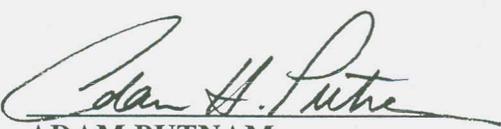
This bipartisan bill strengthens the relationship between federal and state agencies to better control food safety threats and for the first time, grants FDA new powers to recall contaminated food in the case of adulteration. By reinforcing the public-private partnership, the Safe FEAST Act increases the government's role in regulating and overseeing the safe production of food, while drawing upon the strengths of industry to meet the highest food safety standards.

Please join us in taking a meaningful step towards modernizing America's food safety systems. For more information or to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jacquelyn Schneider in Congressman Costa's office (5-3341) or Karen Williams in Congressman Putnam's office (5-1252).

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



ADAM PUTNAM
Member of Congress

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