



## Consumer Federation of America

April 7, 2008

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. DeGette:

The Consumer Federation of America supports efforts to assure a more effective and efficient food recall and traceability system. During a recall, it is critical that federal agencies have the necessary authority to assure that recalls are carried out quickly to prevent consumers from eating contaminated food. Your bill, the Safe And Fair Enforcement and Recall for Meat, Poultry, and Food Act of 2007 (HR 3484) would provide USDA and FDA with mandatory recall authority, which would authorize the agencies to require a recall in the event a food producer refused to recall contaminated product voluntarily. We believe this is an important authority that would provide the agencies with necessary leverage during a recall.

An effective recall system must be accompanied by an effective traceback system so that federal agencies can trace contaminated food throughout the food supply chain. Your bill, the Tracing and Recalling Agricultural Contamination Everywhere Act of 2007 (HR 3485), establishes a system of tracing meat and poultry products through the food chain. This is important element of a functional recall system that can help protect consumers.

We greatly appreciate all your efforts to assure that consumers are protected in the event of a recall. We look forward to working with you on these important bills.

Sincerely,

Chris Waldrop  
Director, Food Policy Institute