



April 2007

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS:

You have most likely heard about a citizen's petition concerning the modernization of food standards. You have also no doubt heard statements about how this does or does not affect chocolate products. We are writing to help put this in perspective.

In October 2006, the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) prepared a citizen's petition that was co-signed by eleven trade associations representing other food sectors<sup>1</sup>. The petition requested both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise their regulations in ways that would apply generally to all standards of identity for all food products.

CMA's decision to co-sign the petition reflects CMA's view that now is an appropriate time for FDA to update the standards of identity for all foods. We want to emphasize that by co-signing the food industry petition, CMA has not endorsed any particular change to the standards of identity for chocolate products.

The petition in its current form is likely to be just the beginning of a long regulatory process. Like any proposal before the FDA and FSIS, the petition must go through a public notice and comment period before any final decision is reached. During this time, CMA, its member companies<sup>2</sup> and any interested party, including the public, will have the opportunity to comment on any proposed changes and share their views with the FDA and FSIS. We encourage you to review the petition and its appendices.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lynn M. Bragg'.

Lynn M. Bragg  
President, Chocolate Manufacturers Association

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<sup>1</sup> Co-signers: American Frozen Food Institute, American Meat Institute, Chocolate Manufacturers Association, Food Products Association, Grocery Manufacturers Association, International Dairy Foods Association, Juice Products Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Fisheries Institute, National Meat Canners Association, North American Millers' Association, Snack Food Association

<sup>2</sup> CMA member companies are: ADM Cocoa, Barry Callebaut USA, LLC, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Guittard Chocolate Company, Hershey Company, Masterfoods USA, a Mars, Incorporated Company, Nestlé Chocolate & Confections, and World's Finest Chocolate, Inc.