

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Margaret Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20933

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

We write to share our concerns regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) proposed rule for Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals. The FDA has shown proper judgment in the rulemaking process by agreeing to resubmit the proposal for further comment later this year, and we thank the FDA for its willingness to remain flexible during the rulemaking process.

We support the FDA's efforts to implement rules that fulfill the Food Safety Modernization Act's (FSMA's) intention of improving confidence in our nation's food supply by eliminating risk factors in the national food chain. However, it is imperative that these rules remain focused in their scope and do not attempt to solve food safety problems that do not exist.

For many years, breweries across the country have offered their spent grain to local farmers for little to no cost. This mutually beneficial relationship has provided local farmers with nutritious, cost-effective, and readily available feed for their livestock. Many small dairy farmers, ranchers, and others rely on the inexpensive spent grain to feed their animals. Termination of this beneficial relationship will cause economic harm to both the breweries providing the spent grain and the small farms receiving it. Many small farms, the backbone to America's growing local food boom, rely on the inexpensive spent grain to feed their livestock.

Requiring breweries to comply with these additional regulations will make the current practice of donating or selling spent grain cost prohibitive. Instead of helping small farmers across the country, breweries will be forced to waste spent grain by sending it to landfills. Many small breweries are leaders in making their companies sustainable and environmentally conscious. This proposed rule would greatly inhibit those efforts.

The proposed rule would be especially burdensome to the 2,700 craft breweries in the U.S. These breweries employ over 110,000 people and provide more than \$15 billion in economic activity throughout the U.S. In addition to potentially stifling this growing industry, we are concerned that this proposed rule could have a devastating impact on small and family-owned farms, and could force them to shut down if they lose access to affordable feed.

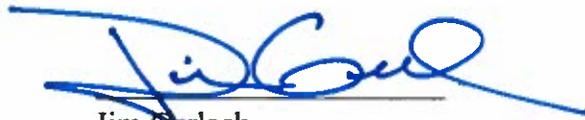
When the proposed rule governing animal food is republished, we encourage the FDA to address these concerns, to include a specific exemption for alcohol-related facilities identified in Section 116 of FSMA, and to avoid placing an undue burden on our nation's small breweries and farms.

Thank you again for your work on this issue, which affects breweries and farms across the country. We urge you to ensure that your proposed rule is fair to all affected parties. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



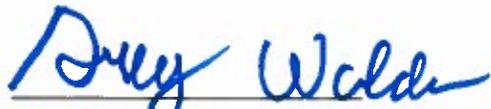
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



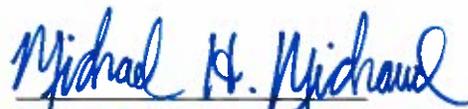
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



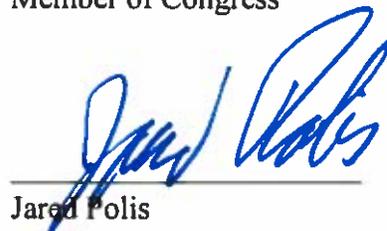
Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Richard L. Hanna
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



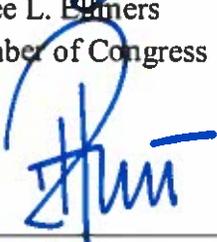
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



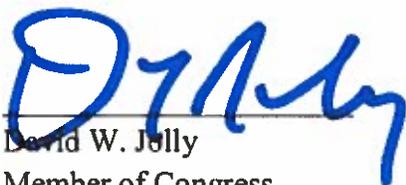
Renee L. Eshers
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



David W. Jolly
Member of Congress



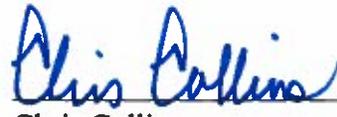
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert
Member of Congress



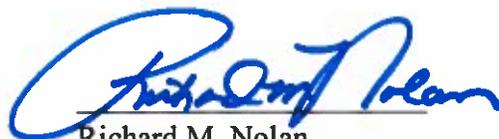
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



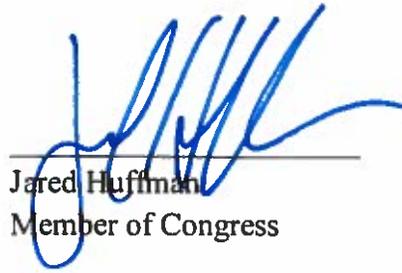
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



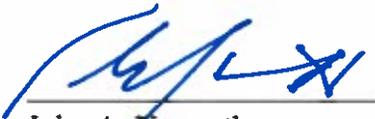
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



John A. armuth
Member of Congress



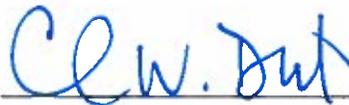
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



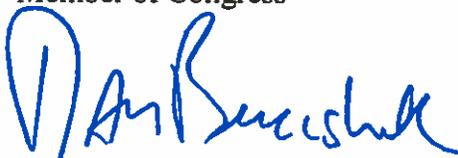
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress