

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Andy Harris  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agricultural, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Harris and Ranking Member Bishop,

We urge you to provide \$30 million to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) in the FY 2025 Appropriations Bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies to review the safety of food chemicals of concern.

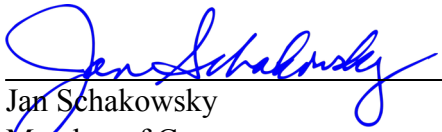
While some food chemicals are safe, others have not been reviewed by the FDA for many decades. For example, chemicals such as tert-butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), used as a preservative in popular pastries and certain cereals have not been reviewed since the 1970s. Other chemicals such as parabens are used as preservatives in pastries and tortillas and have not been meaningfully reviewed since the 1980s. There are several chemicals added to food packaging that have been linked to adverse health effects, including damage to immune systems and increased risk of cancer. In some cases, new concerns have been raised by peer-reviewed science and by regulators in other nations.

Fortunately, the FDA does not need additional authority to undertake these reviews, and has recently proposed banning the use of food chemicals such as brominated vegetable oil (BVO). The agency has also proposed creating a program to review the safety of some chemicals after they have entered the market. However, they currently lack the resources necessary to conduct sufficient reviews, including increased funding to hire new staff. To ensure the safety of our food supply and to maintain the trust of consumers, we urge you to make the needed investments and get the FDA the resources it needs to ensure the food we eat is safe and communicate the outcomes of its assessments with the public.


As you know, prior Appropriations bills have directed the FDA to issue a report on options to reassess food chemicals and raised concerns regarding their safety. Consumers deserve to know that the food they eat and the packaging it comes in is safe from harmful chemicals. We urge you to provide \$30 million in the FY 2025 Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations legislation for the FDA to develop a robust system of post-market review and evaluate the safety of food chemicals of concern.


Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

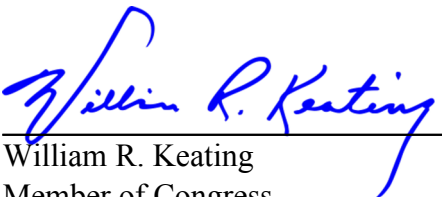
  
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress

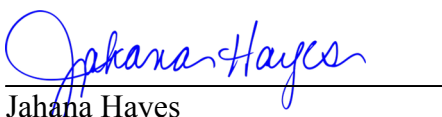
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

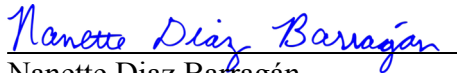
  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress


  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress


  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

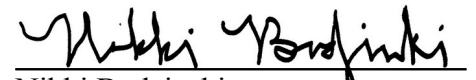
  
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress


  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress


  
Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress


  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

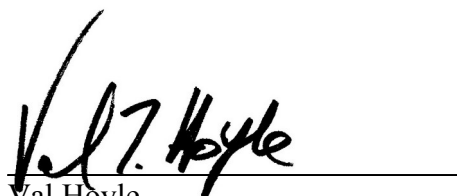
  
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress

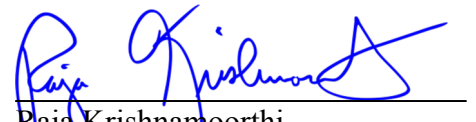
  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

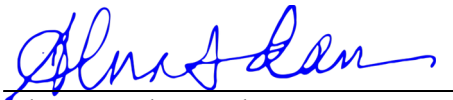
  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress


  
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress


  
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress


  
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

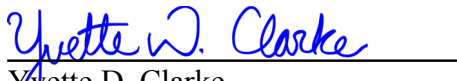
  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

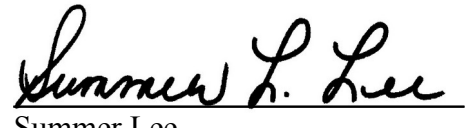
  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

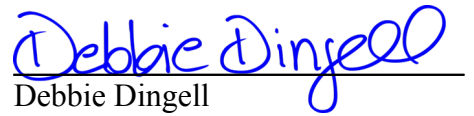
  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

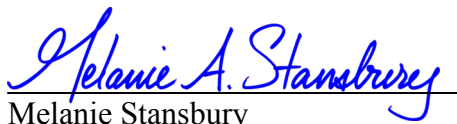
  
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress


  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

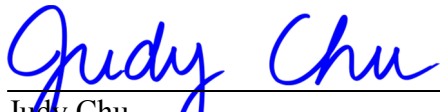
  
Summer Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress


  
Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress


  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

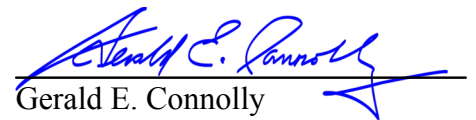
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress


  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress


  
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

  
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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



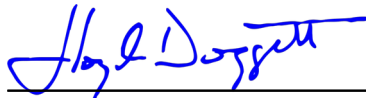
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



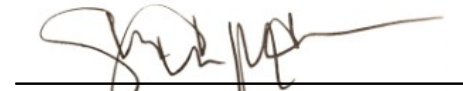
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



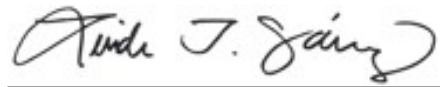
Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



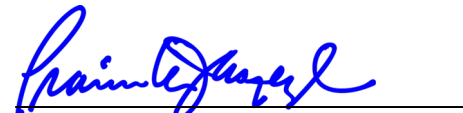
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



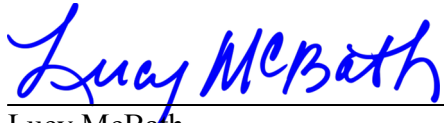
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



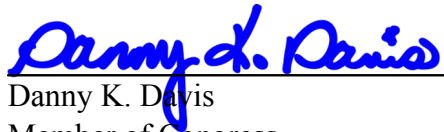
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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress  
Scion of the Enslaved Africans -  
Sacrificed to Make America Great



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



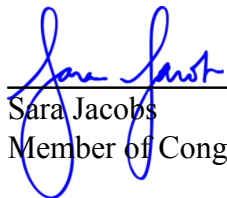
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Beyer", written over a horizontal line.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress