



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C.
20250

AUG 30 2019

Ms. Sarah Sorscher
Deputy Director of Regulatory Affairs
Center for Science in the Public Interest
1220 L Street NW, Suite 300
Washington DC 20010

Dear Ms. Sorscher:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) and Consumer Reports (CR) dated August 29, 2019. The petition requests that FSIS initiate rulemaking to amend 9 CFR 317.17 and 9 CFR 319.2 to prohibit the statements "No Nitrate or Nitrite Added" and "Uncured" on meat products that have been processed using any sources of nitrates or nitrites, including non-synthetic sources, such as celery powder. The petition also requested that FSIS require that the labeling of these products include the statement "nitrates or nitrites added" in lettering at least one-half the size and prominence of the product name and ensure that ingredients used as a source of nitrates or nitrites be declared as such in the product labeling, e.g., "celery powder (source of nitrates or nitrites for curing). In addition, the petition requests that FSIS take additional steps to minimize levels of residual nitrate and nitrite in processed meat products.

Your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 19-03. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and will be posted on the FSIS Website at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/petitions>

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Issuances Staff at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hammar
Deputy Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development