



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

Dr. Urvashi Rangan
Executive Director
Food Safety and Sustainability Center
Consumers Union/Consumer Reports
101 Truman Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10703

AUG 4 2014

Dear Dr. Rangan:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition submitted by you on behalf of Consumer Reports Food Safety and Sustainability Center and various other organizations dated June 26, 2014. The petition requests that FSIS issue an interpretive rule to prohibit use of the claim “natural” in the labeling of meat and poultry products. To support the requested action, the petition includes the results of a consumer survey conducted by Consumer Reports® National Research Center in April 2014 to assess consumer opinion regarding the labeling of food.

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 14-04. 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/regulations_&_policies/Petitions/index.asp.

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,

Charles E. Williams
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development