

RELEASE IN FULL

## FOOD INDUSTRY CODEX COALITION

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Advancing Sound International Policy Through Science

October 18, 2010

Secretary Hilary Clinton  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Tom Vilsack  
US Department of Agriculture  
Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Clinton and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the members of the Food Industry Codex Coalition (FICC)<sup>1</sup> we applaud the Administration's global commitment to food security, through its *Feed the Future* initiative, and urge your strong and continuing support for the US government's role in Codex<sup>2</sup> to further this objective. We address this appeal to both of you, as it relates both to your individual and joint responsibilities on Codex Alimentarius. We are much encouraged by the Administration's view that "the private sector is particularly important for combating food insecurity and increasing the sustainability of our efforts," and we enthusiastically welcome this partnership with the Administration.

We draw your attention especially to the critical relationship between Codex and *Feed the Future*. A vibrant science-based global food safety regulatory system which Codex fosters is among the most tangible and valuable components in the strategy to further our shared goal to achieve global food security. Safe food is a prerequisite for a sufficient

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<sup>1</sup> The FICC represents the interests of over 70 food companies and trade associations keenly interested in the international standard setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). FICC recognizes the critical role Codex serves to facilitate trade and protect consumer health. The coalition, which represents the entire food chain from production to retail, works to influence international food policy based on science. FICC members actively engage with U.S. delegates and Codex staff in an effort to support and strengthen U.S. leadership in Codex.

<sup>2</sup> The Codex Alimentarius was created in 1963 under the joint umbrellas of the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with a dual mandate: protection of the health of consumers and the facilitation of fair practices in food trade.

supply. For our developing country partners, Codex standards serve a vital role in protecting the health of their people, and in facilitating market opportunities for their agricultural commodities. For the US food and agriculture industry, these science-based Codex rules help protect our \$100 billion agricultural export market by setting global standards for safe and fair food trade. Moreover, they lay the foundation for achieving the President's National Export Initiative goal of doubling exports in the next five years.

For all these reasons the US should increase its presence and influence in Codex. Specifically, we urge your close attention, high priority, and full funding support in these areas:

- US Codex Office, USDA, and international outreach programs;
- Office of the Codex Chairperson, currently held by an American at USDA;
- Codex-related positions at both FAO and WHO, the two Codex UN oversight institutions;
- Committed and focused senior policy level participation in the US Codex Policy Committee;
- High-level participation in US delegations to Codex Commission and committee meetings;
- Consistent policy positions for Codex meetings; and
- Enhanced collaboration between the US Mission and the Codex Secretariat at FAO in Rome.

FICC acknowledges with appreciation our government's responsiveness to previous petitions to the Administration to give strong support to Codex issues, and notes particularly USDA's earlier action to strengthen the leadership of the US Codex Office.

At this time we respectfully urge your renewed attention to these other critical areas of Codex activity. Ensuring the full potential of Codex is an essential component to improve global food safety and achieving America's priority goal of global food security.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

American Beverage Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
Animal Health Institute  
Association of Dressings and Sauces  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Calorie Control Council  
Campbell Soup Company  
Corn Refiners Association  
CropLife America

Enzyme Technical Association  
Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association of the United States  
Global Agritrends  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
International Association of Color Manufacturers  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Food Additives Council  
International Formula Council  
Juice Products Association  
National Cattleman's Beef Association  
National Confectioners Association  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Renderers Association  
Nestle USA  
Pet Food Institute  
US Meat Export Federation  
ViaGen, Inc.  
Vinegar Institute

cc:

Ron Kirk, USTR  
Islam Siddiqui, USTR Agriculture Negotiator  
Margaret Hamberg, Commissioner FDA  
Ertharin Cousin, Ambassador to the US Mission to UN Agencies Rome  
Jim Miller, Undersecretary of State USDA FFAS  
Elizabeth Hagen, Undersecretary of Food Safety USDA  
Catherine Woteki, Undersecretary of State USDA REE  
Robert Hormats, Undersecretary of State Economic, Energy and Agriculture  
Francisco Sanchez, Undersecretary for International Trade, DOC  
Rajiv Shah, Administrator USAID  
Jose Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of State, Economic Energy and Business  
Ester Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State, International Organizations  
Cheryl Mills, Chief of Staff to Secretary of State  
Ann Tutwiler, Global Food Security Coordinator USDA  
Michael Taylor, Deputy Commissioner for Foods, FDA  
Gayle Smith, White House National Security Council  
Karen Hulebak, Codex Chairperson  
Karen Stuck, US Codex Manager