

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 12, 2013

The Honorable John Lawrence
13th Legislative District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
B-14 Main Capitol
PO Box 202013
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2013

Dear Representative Lawrence,

Thank you for copying me on your letter to the Food and Drug Administration on proposed rule 112.116 for the Food Safety and Modernization Act (P.L. 111-353).

Agriculture plays a vital role in Pennsylvania's economy, and I believe that there are many ways that the federal government can help foster a more competitive climate for American farmers. Like you, I believe that we need to promote common-sense regulation that does not impair the ability of our farmers to manage and grow their businesses.

While I was not a member of the Senate when the Food Safety and Modernization Act was passed, I understand your concerns about the implementation of the law. Please be assured that I will keep your thoughts in mind as Congress considers food safety regulation.

Thank you again for your correspondence. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
United States Senator

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2013

The Honorable John A. Lawrence
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
B-14 Main Capitol
P.O. Box 202013
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Representative Lawrence:

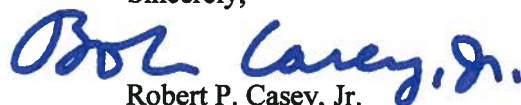
Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the Food and Drug Administration's implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, specifically with the concerns of Chester County. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you are aware, the FDA is in the process of proposing and finalizing rules for the purposes of implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act. I signed onto a letter to letter from the Pennsylvania delegation to FDA Commissioner Hamburg requesting a second comment period prior to issuing final rules on the Produce Safety and Preventative Controls for Human Food. The letter you sent presents an important perspective on Docket FDA-2011-N-0921. If you did not submit comments during the open public comment period, I encourage you to do so. I will continue to monitor the development of these rules closely.

Because it is my priority to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvanians, I supported the Food Safety Modernization Act, which provided the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the tools and the authority to ensure contaminated foods do not make it onto our kitchen tables or into our children's lunchboxes. On December 22, 2010, the President signed the Food Safety Modernization Act into law. This law improves the FDA's capacity to detect and respond to foodborne illnesses by assessing safety threats at food facilities, increasing inspection of imported foods and exploring new ways to track fruits and vegetables in the case of an outbreak. It provides the FDA the authority to issue a mandatory recall. In addition, the Food Safety Modernization Act contains multiple provisions from the Ending Agricultural Threats: Safeguarding America's Food for Everyone, otherwise known as the EAT SAFE Act, which I introduced in the 110th and 111th Congresses. These provisions add personnel to detect, track and remove smuggled food and call for the development and implementation of strategies to stop food from being smuggled into the United States.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future about this or any other matter of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator