January 30, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman Committee on
Appropriations United States Senate

The Honorable Hal Rogers Chairman
Committee on Appropriations United States
House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member Committee on
Appropriations United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations United States
House of Representatives

The Honorable Mark Pryor Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and Food & Drug
Administration United States Senate

The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States Senate

The Honorable Sam Farr Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Mikulski, Rogers, Pryor and Aderholt and Ranking Members Shelby, Lowey, Blunt and Farr:

The Center for Science in the Public Interest thanks you on behalf of our 900,000 members for prioritizing funding of the foods program at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. Your leadership plays a critical role in bringing about a safer food supply for all Americans.

In 2010, Congress acted on the need for reforms to the food safety system by passing the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). At that time, too many people were suffering preventable foodborne illnesses because of our antiquated food safety laws. FSMA replaces a reactive system—one that responded only after problems occurred—with one designed to prevent problems and protect consumers. For that new system to work, FDA must have the resources to carry out its new responsibilities. We are, therefore, very grateful for the appropriation of $883 million to the Foods program, which includes money for FSMA implementation.
The Center for Science in the Public Interest is a nonprofit health advocacy and education organization focused on food safety and nutrition issues. We are supported principally by our subscribers to *Nutrition Action HealthLetter* and by foundation grants. We accept no government or industry funding.

Sincerely,

Caroline Smith DeWaal, J.D.  
Director of Food Safety

Michael F. Jacobson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director