



May 24, 2017

Mr. Jim O'Hara
Director, Health Promotion Policy
Center for Science in the Public Interest
1220 L Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. O'Hara:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2017, cosigned by 28 other groups and individuals, in which you ask for a commitment from the Department to maintain the compliance date of July 26, 2018, for the Nutrition Facts label. Secretary Price asked me to respond on his behalf.

We appreciate the reasons you raised in your letter in support of maintaining the compliance date as well as those that other stakeholders raised in support of extending the compliance date. We are mindful of the importance of balancing our mission of protecting public health with the practicalities of implementing the amended labeling requirements.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the requirements for the Nutrition and Supplement Facts labels to help improve public health. These amendments reflect new scientific information, including the link between diet and chronic diseases such as obesity and heart disease. For example, the increased prominence of the calories declaration and the updated serving sizes are intended to help address the growing incidence of obesity in the United States. We note that around 80 percent of Americans use the label some or most of the time and are pleased to see that some products in the marketplace already bear the new label. We believe the new label will make it easier for consumers to make better informed food choices for themselves and for their families and, ultimately, help improve public health. We appreciate your support of these important goals.

As soon as we reach a decision concerning the compliance date, we will follow up with you and other stakeholders. Thank you, again, for contacting us concerning this matter. If you have further questions, please let us know. Please share my letter with your cosigners.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Ostroff, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Foods
and Veterinary Medicine

U.S. Food & Drug Administration
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