Decision Making on Food Additives:
The Appropriate Role for Public-Private Partnerships Delivering Useful Science

Erik Olson
Director, Food Programs
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Pew’s approach to food

- Science-based policies
- Pragmatic, effective solutions
- Transparency
- Engage all stakeholders
Food-related projects at Pew

- Food Safety Project
  - FDA Food Safety Modernization Act
  - Meat & Poultry investigation
Pew’s Role—Food Safety Legislation

- Research & Publications
- Major Advocacy Campaign
- Make our Food Safe Coalition
- Partnership with Key Members of Industry
- Produce Safety Project at Georgetown University
Industry, Consumer Demand for action on Food Safety Bill

Supported by:

- Food companies
- Food trade associations
- Consumer organizations
- Public health groups
- Foodborne illness victims
- FDA

September 16, 2010

Senator Harry Reid
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
S. 221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC, 20510-7020

Senator Mitch McConnell
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
S. 230 Capitol Building
Washington DC, 20510-7010

Dear Majority Leader Reid & Minority Leader McConnell,

Our organizations are writing to urge you to schedule a vote on S. 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009, at the soonest possible date. The HELP Committee approved a strong, bipartisan bill in November, and we believe that a vote would keep the momentum going for enactment of landmark food-safety legislation.

Strong food-safety legislation will reduce the risk of contamination and thereby better protect public health and safety, raise the bar for the food industry, and deter bad actors. S. 510 will provide the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the resources and authorities the agency needs to help make prevention the focus of our food safety strategies. Among other things, this legislation requires food companies to develop a food safety plan; it improves the safety of imported food and food ingredients; and it adopts a risk-based approach to inspection.

Our organizations — representing the food industry, consumers, and the public health community — urge you to bring S. 510 to the floor, and we will continue to work with Congress for the enactment of food safety legislation that better protects consumers, restores their confidence in the safety of the food they eat, and addresses the challenges posed by our global food supply.

Sincerely,

American Beverage Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Public Health Association
Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Education
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Consumer Federation of America
Consumers Union
Food Marketing Institute
Grocery Manufacturers Association
International Bottled Water Association
International Dairy Foods Association

National Association of Manufacturers
National Coffee Association of U.S.A., Inc.
National Confectioners Association
National Consumers League
National Restaurant Association
The PEW Charitable Trusts
Trust for America’s Health
Snack Food Association
S.T.O.P Safe Tables Our Priority
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Campaign Included Many Elements

- MOFS Coalition
  - Public health orgs
  - Consumer groups
  - Victims representatives
- Partnership With GMA, industry
President Obama Signed the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act on January 4, 2011

Implementation just beginning

Major Proposed Rules issued 1/4/2013
Kids Safe & Healthful Foods Project

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act

- School Meals
- Snack Foods & Beverages
- Cafeteria Equipment & Training
Human Health & Industrial Farming

- Antibiotic Resistance Issue
- 70% of U.S. antibiotics are used in animal agriculture
- Concerns from:
  - World Health Organization
  - American Medical Association
  - American Academy of Pediatrics
  - Infectious Disease Society of America
Food Additives Project

- Launched in 2010:
  - Comprehensive analysis of regulatory program/science
  - Develop policy recommendations
- Transparent Pew process engages industry, academic, government and public interest stakeholders
- Workshops and articles, primarily in peer-reviewed journals
Workshops held by Pew

- Cosponsored by *Nature* and Institute of Food Technologists
- Hazard assessment – April 2011
- Exposure assessment – November 2011
- Policy options – April 2012
- Dose response for endocrine disruptors – April 2012
NanoRelease Food Additive Project

- Led by ILSI Research Foundation
- Release and absorption measurement methods
- Year-long collaborative project
- Diverse stakeholders engaged
- Partially funded by Pew
Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS)

- 10,000 chemicals allowed to be added to food
- 3,000 not reviewed by FDA
- 1,000 unknown to FDA

Concerns about GRAS & implications for FDA’s science and reassessment of old decisions
Potential partners

- Committed to engaging all stakeholders
- Considering all views
- Transparency
Potential collaborations

- NanoRelease – Phase 2
- Reassessment framework
- Weight of evidence
- Conflicts of interest
Areas for Collaborative Evaluation

- Strengths, weaknesses of regulatory system
- Systematic review of old decisions: what’s the best approach?
  - Priority-setting?
  - Transparency/public input?
- Updating FDA science
For more information on Pew’s Food Additive Project

Contact:
Erik D. Olson
Director of Food Programs
The Pew Charitable Trusts
202.552-2000
eolson@pewtrusts.org
www.pewhealth.org