Office of Policy and Program Development

Labeling and Program Delivery Division Stop Code 3784, Patriots Plaza III, 8-161A 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-3700

May 8, 2012

Dear Industry Representative,

This letter is to inform you of an opportunity to connect electronically with the Labeling Submission and Approval System (LSAS), an electronic label submission system about to be launched by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). This system was developed to expedite many aspects of the prior label approval system by offering electronic submission and status checks for labels and a Generic Label Advisor to assist establishments in determining whether labels can be approved generically or require sketch approval.

LSAS is "role based" which allows for more flexibility in how you manage your label submissions and approvals. As an FSIS-regulated establishment, company, label expeditor or foreign government conducting business with FSIS, you have the option to access LSAS over the Internet using a secure account. This access will allow your business to interact electronically with FSIS when performing a wide variety of operations, such as submitting a label application or other information, such as checking status of label submissions or checking for the acceptability of generic approvals.

All users of LSAS are required to have a "Level-2" USDA e-Authentication account to access the system. Only one e-Authentication account is necessary and if you already have one for PHIS, you do not need an additional account. If you are interested in this opportunity, please initiate the process by establishing an USDA "Level 2" e-Authentication account. Below are the steps to obtain a "Level 2" e-Authentication account:

- 1. Log onto www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, and complete the on-line application for approval. USDA will notify you when your account is approved.
- 2. After you receive your notification of approval, you are required to have a Licensed Registration Agent (LRA) verify your identity in person. You must do this before you

can receive a password for your e-Authentication account. Find an agent in your area using the map provided by e-Authentication. Go to their website at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov and click on the "Find a LRA" button at the top right corner of the page.

3. It is important that you maintain your e-Authentication password in a secure location and not share it with others; it is unique to you as an individual.

If you need assistance or have questions about e-Authentication, contact the USDA e-Authentication Service Desk at eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov or 800-457-3642.

After you have received your "Level 2" e-Authentication you will need to go to the FSIS website at: www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Label Submission Approval System/index.asp to access user information and request access to LSAS.

Additional information will be provided in the weekly <u>Constituent Update</u> on the FSIS website.

Murphy-Jenkens

Sincerely,

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

Labeling and Program Delivery Division