

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 24, 2011

Margaret Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Re: Corn Refiners Association Petition for Alternate Name for High Fructose Corn Syrup [FDA-2010-P-0491]

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

We are writing to express our support for the petition submitted by the Corn Refiners Association (CRA) to allow the use of 'corn sugar' as an alternate name for high fructose corn syrup on ingredient labels. We urge you to expeditiously review this citizen petition, FDA-2010-P-0491, and give it all due consideration.

This petition is an important step in helping consumers better understand ingredient labels and the nutritional content of their food, including added sugars. Recent survey data conducted using guidelines put forth by the Office of Management and Budget indicates that 70 percent of Americans could not identify high fructose corn syrup when presented with the American Dietetic Association (ADA) definition for it. According to the same research, 'corn sugar' is a better alternate name for high fructose corn syrup. Consumers better understand its fructose level, calories, and sweetness, when the term 'corn sugar' is substituted for high fructose corn syrup.

The name high fructose corn syrup can lead to confusion for consumers. The version used in many foods (HFCS 42) is actually the lowest fructose-containing sweetener on the market. However, 57.7 percent of American consumers believe it contains more fructose than sugar even though these two sweeteners contain comparable amounts. Both the American Medical Association and the ADA have determined that table sugar and high fructose corn syrup are nutritionally equivalent.

In addition to clearing up consumer uncertainty about this ingredient, it is worthwhile to note the role that high fructose corn syrup plays in our nation's food supply. This ingredient keeps foods affordable for American consumers and creates high-paying jobs here at home. It has contributed to greater food choices for consumers. It is made from U.S. grown corn by an industry that provides 65,000 American jobs industry-wide; however, it is being significantly mischaracterized in the marketplace largely because of its name.

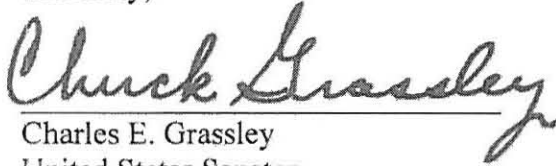
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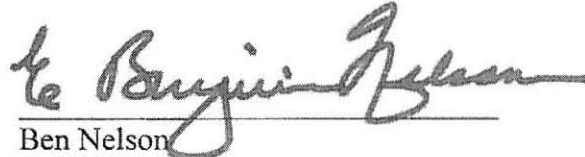
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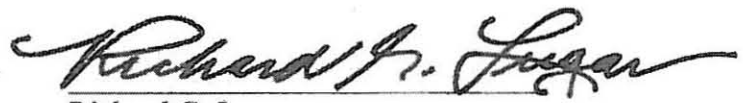
FDA is in a position to remedy the confusion stemming from the name high fructose corn syrup by allowing an alternate name that better describes this ingredient to be used on labels. On behalf of corn farmers and corn refiners, we support the CRA petition to grant permission to use the term "corn sugar" as an option for high fructose corn syrup. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

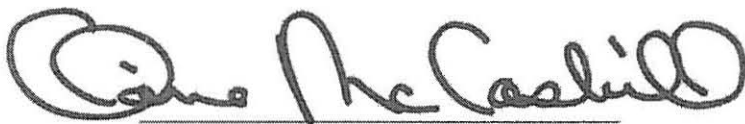
Sincerely,

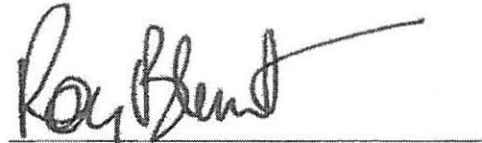

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

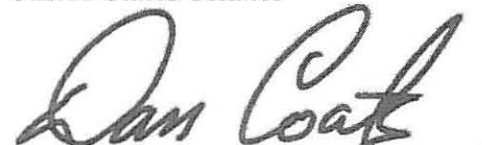

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United States Senator


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