

April 27, 2018

William J. Kenny  
Executive Director, Contracting and Acquisition Management  
Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support  
7000 Robbins Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Dear Mr. Kenny:

On behalf of the Coalition for Uniformity in Food Ingredient Standards, the undersigned organizations write to request a meeting with you in the next 30 days to discuss the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) plans for potential menu changes following the recent Request for Information (RFI), "RFI to Industry to assess the impact of reducing or eliminating certain ingredients from food products." The Coalition includes farmers, ingredient suppliers, and food manufacturers. Several Coalition members are long-standing suppliers to the Department of Defense, and value the opportunity to provide nutritious, safe, and affordable food to the military.

A number of our industries provided written comments in response to the RFI and stand ready to help DLA meet the nutrition needs of our military. We appreciated the opportunity to provide input on the proposed ingredients ban through the RFI process. However, we were disappointed to learn that, despite our interest in working together and sharing information, the Army Buyer's Guide Version 11 continues to exclude soy protein extenders and would like to receive more information on how feedback received through the RFI process will be incorporated into future Buyer's Guides and other menu change proposals.

Companies represented by some of the undersigned trade associations participated in the recent Research and Development Associates for Military Food and Packaging (RD&A) meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania; however, there was not an opportunity for a dialogue on this important topic. Therefore, we would appreciate the opportunity to have an in-depth conversation with key decision-makers as DLA makes policy determinations on certain ingredients in the foods provided to the military. Several of the organizations listed below have technical experts on staff who can explain the safety, nutrition and functional benefits, and cost considerations associated with these ingredients. Our collective knowledge, expertise and insights would be a valuable resource to the Agency.

In addition to providing information on the safety and nutritional benefits of ingredients DLA has concerns about, we would also like to discuss other opportunities for greater coordination and resource-sharing among other federal Departments and within the Department of Defense.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please have your staff contact Nancy Wilkins of the Grocery Manufacturers Association ([nwilkins@gmaonline.org](mailto:nwilkins@gmaonline.org)) to confirm our meeting.

Sincerely,

American Soybean Association  
Grocery Manufacturers Association

Institute of Shortenings and Edible Oils  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
Southwest Meat Association  
Soyfoods Association of North America

Enclosures:    Response to RFI from Grocery Manufacturers Association  
                  Response to RFI from Soyfoods Association of North America  
                  Response to RFI from Institute of Shortenings and Edible Oils

CC:            The Honorable James Mattis  
                  Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Scott Gottlieb  
Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration