



April 7, 2014

Mr. Michael Taylor  
Deputy Commissioner for Foods  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Bldg #1  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Mr. Taylor:

With 1,500 members, the American Cheese Society (ACS) is the key stakeholder in the artisan, farmstead, and specialty cheese industry in the U.S. We would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss FSMA's evolving regulatory landscape and the role ACS can play in advancing the quality, safety, and variety of cheese produced in the U.S. Our goal is to work in partnership with FDA to ensure a safe food supply, the survival of traditional production methods, consumer choice, and rural economic development. We have also been establishing collaborative relationships with industry partners to find common ground, and recently sat down for a face-to-face meeting with the Cheese Importers Association of American (CIAA) and the Specialty Food Association (SFA).

FDA's science-based approach, and your forward-looking, "trust but verify" approach to working with industry, are shared by ACS. We believe the artisan cheese industry can experience continued growth in this country while setting an example as proactive leaders in ensuring safe, high-quality food products. Research and history in the U.S. and abroad bears this out.

We have been in touch with your office, and hope that a meeting date can be set up this spring. ACS has taken every opportunity afforded us to engage with FDA by participating in public hearings, briefing calls, and in-person meetings. We remain committed to taking part in any and all FDA meetings relevant to cheese in America.

Sincerely,

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cc: Peggy Smith, Cowgirl Creamery, ACS Vice President  
Donald Kraemer, Senior Advisor, FDA CFSAN  
Michael Landa, Director, FDA CFSAN  
John C. Mowbray, General Health Scientist, FDA CFSAN  
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