

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 27, 2013

The Honorable Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Building 1, Room 2217
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

We write to urge continued funding from FDA for the work performed at New Mexico State University's (NMSU) Food Safety Laboratories. New Mexico State University has worked closely and successfully with FDA staff members for over twelve years, and direct funding is needed this fiscal year to assure the valuable collaboration continues.

The collaboration between NMSU and FDA's Forensics Chemistry Center and Pacific Regional Lab Northwest has resulted in the development of improved methods and new technologies that significantly improve the speed, accuracy and sensitivity of the testing of domestic and imported commodities that help ensure food safety. This relationship has been valuable for NMSU as well, providing training to FDA staff members in up-to-date analytical techniques and preparing students at NMSU who may choose to join FDA in the future.

We are pleased to have supported NMSU's Food Safety Laboratories and the unique collaborative enterprise that exists with FDA's Forensic Chemistry Center and Pacific Regional Lab Northwest. We believe this valuable collaboration should continue and urge you to provide direct funding to NMSU to continue the effort. In addition, we respectfully request that you and the Acting Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs plan to meet with Food Safety Staff of NMSU to discuss how FDA and NMSU may continue to collaborate in the agency's efforts to modernize food safety testing. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



TOM UDALL
United States Senator



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator



BEN RAY LUJAN
United States Representative



STEVE PEARCE
United States Representative



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
United States Representative