

Association of Food and Drug Officials

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December 19, 2006

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Brian A. Nummer, Ph.D.
Extension Food Safety Specialist
Utah State University
8700 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-8700

Dear Brian,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), offering our support, collaboration and resources to the Retail Food Safety Consortium.

We concur that there is a significant need for a Retail Food safety Consortium and that a Cooperative Extension-led effort is an ideal mechanism to accomplish this goal. AFDO will contribute the expertise of our members to participate on the Multi-State Research Advisory Committee and to attend the Consortium roundtables in addition to co-sponsoring a 1-day roundtable event in conjunction with our 2009 AFDO Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Charlene Bruce, President
Association of Food and Drug Officials



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December 27, 2006

This letter is written on behalf of the International Association for Food Protection's Executive Board and the Association. We offer our participation, support and collaboration to the Retail Food Safety Consortium as is spelled out in the attached documents.

We concur there is a significant need for a Retail Food Safety Consortium and that a Cooperative Extension led effort is an ideal mechanism to accomplish this goal. After participating in the November 2006 start-up conference, "Collaborating Across Boundaries in Retail Foodservice Food Safety," it was apparent that much can be gained by working together when looking at retail foodservice food safety. We look forward to advancing as the group makes progress.

We will contribute to this effort:

- by actively participating through our designated expert representative to the Consortium,
- by preparing in advance for each group meeting, whether conducted by teleconference or in person,
- by writing summary reports to share with Consortium members and to make public when appropriate,
- by sharing Consortium information on the IAFP Web site when it is made available,
- by publishing reports and information in our print journal, *Food Protection Trends*, and
- in other mutually agreed upon methods.

This is an exciting opportunity to combine efforts involving food safety as they affect retail foodservice and IAFP stands ready to assist the Consortium. We look forward to the next steps as the process moves forward!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Tharp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

David W. Tharp, CAE
CEO and Executive Director
International Association for Food Protection



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December 8, 2006

Brian A. Nummer, Ph.D
Extension Food Safety Specialist
Utah State University
8700 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-8700

Dear Dr. Nummer,

On behalf of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), we are very pleased to offer our participation, support, and collaboration with the Utah State University application for the USDA CSREES Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants proposal that addresses the priority area 111.F, National Support and Coordination of Integrated Food Safety Programs and Resources.

NEHA, through its membership possesses extensive knowledge and experience in food safety issues and agrees that the proposal to establish a Retail Food Safety Consortium to facilitate communication from the national to the local level will contribute to improving food safety throughout the nation. And NEHA concurs that a Cooperative Extension led effort is an ideal mechanism to accomplish this goal. We will participate in the Consortium activities, encourage participation of the NEHA membership, and provide feedback on activities NEHA desires of the Consortium.

NEHA will contribute to this effort as a subcontractor by:

- Participating in the Retail Food Safety Agricultural Experiment Station Multi-state Research Advisory Committee;
- Participating in annual Consortium Roundtable meetings scheduled for 2008, 2009, and 2010 including serving as sponsor for the 2008 Consortium meeting in conjunction with NEHA's Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition;
- Serving as a liaison between NEHA and Consortium to communicate with regional membership affiliates and/or retail food safety sub-groups;
- Soliciting examples of retail food safety practices and seeking membership volunteers to review, evaluate, and disseminate those "best practices" to interested individuals, agencies, and organizations;
- Collaborating on information sharing by partnering with the Consortium's Web site portal project; and
- Participating in annual needs assessment of research needs and priorities and communicating results to the membership.

NEHA believes Utah State University has the expertise to implement this project to provide this much needed Consortium. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Marcum, J.D., M.P.A
Manager, Research and Development/Government Affairs

December 15, 2006

Brian A. Nummer, PhD.
Extension Food Safety Specialist
Utah State University
8700 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-8700

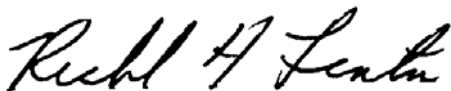
Dr. Nummer,

I am very excited to learn that you are coordinating a new USDA-CSREES proposal effort to build upon a successful Retail Safety Consortium concept developed this past year. I think the meeting in Las Vegas, NV this past spring was a great start. I also think there is a great opportunity to build the consortium into something far better for the retail food safety community.

With this letter also comes a commitment for me to work on the proposed project with the other land grant institutions (Utah State, North Carolina State, University of Arkansas, and Rutgers), with the industry, with state/local/federal regulatory agencies, and with other important stakeholders. My specific interest in involvement in this project is the development of a retail safety website portal described in the proposal.

Brian, I wish you luck with this proposal and continued success in helping to make retail food handling practices safer.

Kind Regards,



Richard Linton
Professor of Food Microbiology
University Faculty Scholar
Director of the Center for Food Safety Engineering



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December 14, 2006

Brian Nummer, Ph.D.
Extension Food Safety Specialist
Utah State University
8700 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-8700

Dear Dr. Nummer,

The University of Arkansas will continue to participate in the Retail Food Safety Consortium. I will serve as the Project Director for the University of Arkansas.

Pending funding, I agree to coordinate Objective 1C as listed below and to maintain contact between the Retail Food Safety Consortium and 5 partner organizations:

- Identify liaisons for each stakeholder group that is a member of the consortium
- Liaisons report Consortium activities to partner organization annually
- Liaisons report partner organization activities to Consortium annually
- Liaisons will communicate partner organization needs to Consortium

I further agree to coordinate the 2009 Retail Food Safety Consortium meeting in conjunction with the 2009 meeting of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) as part of Objective 1B and to participate in the Retail Food Safety Consortium as needed.

Please keep me informed as to the proposal progress and I hope that we will be working together on the Consortium next year.

Sincerely,

John A. Marcy, Ph.D.

FOOD RISK ANALYSIS INITIATIVE

DR. DONALD W. SCHAFFNER
65 DUDLEY ROAD
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NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

January 9, 2007

Brian A. Nummer
750 N 1200 E
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-8700

Dear Brian,

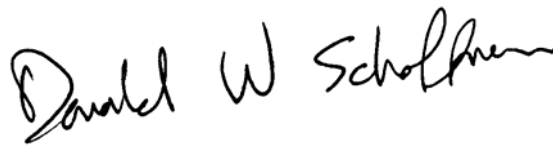
This is just a short note to let you know that our proposal to fund the initial activities of the Retail Food Safety Consortium has my full support.

As you know, our previously funded USDA conference grant got the Retail Food Safety Consortium off to a great start.

If funded, I'm confident that we will be able to: enhance collaborations between retail food safety professionals; identify and scientifically validate retail food safety practices; collect, develop, review, and disseminate retail food safety resources; and identify and prioritize retail food safety needs.

The Consortium has the potential to make the food supply safer by filling gaps at the retail food level of the farm-to-table food chain, and I look forward to working with you to make that potential a reality.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Schaffner, Ph.D.
Professor

December 6, 2006

Brian Nummer
Nutrition and Food Science Specialist
NFS 321
8700 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-8700

Dear Dr. Nummer,

I am writing this letter to acknowledge my commitment to the Retail Food Safety Consortium proposal being submitted by you to CSREES. I am the USU Extension Reporting and Accountability Specialist and a Community Development Educator. In this role I advise USU Extension faculty on program evaluation practices to measure program outcomes. I also gather from faculty and Stakeholders information for the USU Extension's Plan of Work and collect data for USU Extension's annual reports. Within my community development work I develop and administer community surveys for local governments and engage in other community development endeavors, including facilitation of focus groups. In addition to my services, Dr. Dallas Holmes, USU Extension Institutional Research Program Specialist, has agreed to collaborate with me on this project. Together, we bring over 46 years of evaluation experience to the project.

Our evaluation services, based upon your proposal, have two components. The first outlines services that we are able to provide, with no charge to the project, as part of our regular duties at USU. The second component outlines extra contractual services to the project.

1. USU Services:

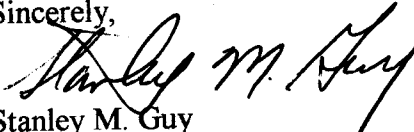
- a. Offer advice on how your (USU's) commitments to the Retail Food Safety Consortium can be evaluated.

2. Extra Contractual Services:

- a. Jointly develop with you an overall evaluation plan for the Retail Food Safety Consortium.
- b. Review the evaluation plans and instruments from collaborating Universities and cooperate with their evaluators to encourage sound evaluation practices within the project.
- c. Jointly develop with you an evaluation plan, activities, and questionnaires to evaluate your (USU's) objective areas of the Retail Food Safety Consortium project.
- d. Conduct mutually agreed upon activities and surveys from the Retail Food Safety Consortium evaluation plan.

We look forward to working with you as the Retail Food Safety Consortium project reaches fruition. If you have questions contact me at 435-797-3221 or by email at stang@ext.usu.edu.

Sincerely,



Stanley M. Guy
USU Community Development Educator

Cc: Dallas Holmes