

FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN  
CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641  
October 12, 2011

Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30333

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

Dear Director Frieden and Commissioner Hamburg:

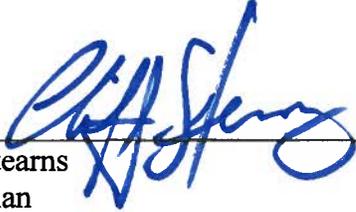
Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is examining the facts surrounding the recent outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* in cantaloupe as well as actions being taken in response to the outbreak by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

On September 14, 2011, the FDA issued a press release announcing that Jensen Farms of Holly, Colorado issued a voluntary recall of its Rock Ford-brand cantaloupes after being linked to a multi-state outbreak of *Listeria*. On October 4, 2011, the CDC announced that over one hundred people have been infected with *Listeria* in twenty-four states and that twenty-one people have died, making it the deadliest outbreak of foodborne illness in more than a decade. According to the CDC, despite the fact that the recalled cantaloupe should be off the shelves, more illnesses and related deaths may be reported.

To assist the Committee in better understanding the cause of this outbreak as well as actions being taken to mitigate the extent of its impact, we request that you contact Mr. John Stone with the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 to schedule a staff briefing to occur in person no later than October 19, 2011.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

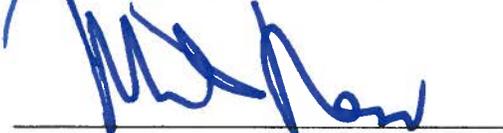
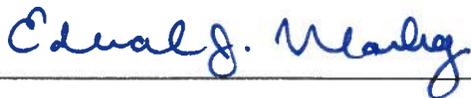
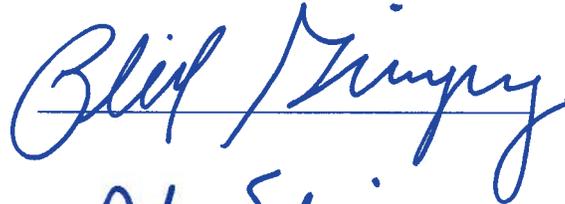
Sincerely,



Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations



Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations





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cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

**List of Signatories**

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Cliff Stearns  
Joe Barton  
Sue Myrick  
Tim Murphy  
H. Morgan Griffith  
Lee Terry  
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Gene Green

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