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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 21, 2011

Ryan D. Jensen, Co-Owner/Partner
Eric S. Jensen, Co-Owner/Partner
Jensen Farms
31 North Cline
Granada, CO 81041

Dear Messrs. Jensen:

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* that originated in cantaloupe traced back to Jensen Farms in Granada, Colorado.

On September 14, 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that Jensen Farms issued a voluntary recall of its cantaloupes. To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 123 people have been infected with the disease in 26 states and that 25 people have died, making this the deadliest foodborne illness outbreak in the last 25 years. This week, FDA released preliminary information that provides an overview of the factors that potentially contributed to the contamination of the cantaloupes. FDA also issued a warning letter to your company citing that 13 of the 39 environmental samples collected from Jensen Farms packaging facility tested positive for *Listeria.*

The Committee has a long bipartisan history of conducting food safety oversight and is very concerned about these recent developments. We intend to learn more from the FDA, CDC, Jensen Farms, and others who may provide insight into the causes of this outbreak and the prevention of future outbreaks.

We request that you make arrangements with Committee staff to schedule a briefing. At the same time, we ask that you preserve all documents and communications that may be relevant to understanding the reasons for the contamination and distribution of contaminated products

from Jensen Farms. Please contact John Stone or Stacia Cardille of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 to schedule a staff briefing to occur in person no later than November 3, 2011.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Chairman

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member

Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus

John D. Dingell
Chairman Emeritus