



AMERICAN SPICE TRADE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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March 2, 2009

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

ASTA is a trade association that represents the U.S. spice industry. It was founded in 1907 and represents the interests of approximately 175 members including companies that grow, dehydrate, and process spices. ASTA's members include U.S.-based agents, brokers, and importers, and other companies associated with the U.S. spice industry. ASTA members manufacture and market the majority of spices sold in the U.S. at retail and to food processors.

We applaud your efforts at reforming the food safety system and strongly agree that meaningful changes need to be made. Your bill is an excellent start. We support many of the provisions included in the bill and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Senator's staff on modifications which would facilitate implementation and assure that the objectives are met.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at [CDeem@astaspice.org](mailto:CDeem@astaspice.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Deem  
Executive Director