Citizen Petition

Revoke the FDA Authorized Use of PFAs In Pet Food Packaging **Date: 12/17/2022**

The undersigned, and on behalf of 553 signed supporters *(see attached list)* submits this petition under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or the Public Health Service Act or any other statutory provision for which authority has been delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to request the revoke of a regulation.

A. Action Requested

We request that the Commissioner of Food and Drugs revoke the following Regulation:

Under 'Authorized Uses of PFAS in Food Contact Applications,'

Under 'PFAS that are authorized for use in contact with food (4 categories listed),'

Pertinent Category - Paper/paperboard food packaging:
PFAS may be used as grease-proofing agents in fastfood wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, take-out paperboard containers, and pet food bags to prevent oil and grease from foods from leaking through the packaging.

Specific Application – Pet food bags. *(Information attached)* We request that this specific application category be revoked due to recent scientific research.

B. Statement of Grounds

This petition is based upon recent scientific research by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), in which several major brands of dry pet food were indicated as having high levels of PFAs in their dry pet food, which had migrated from the packaging to the food…up to 600 ppm. *(EWG findings attached)*

Pet food manufacturers are using PFAs in their packaging to repel water and grease, which was approved by the FDA. However, through EWG scientific research, it has been proven that this is not a safe practice. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that PFAs can be found in food packaging and that people can be exposed to PFAs through "Using products made with PFAS or that are packaged in materials containing PFAS" *(EPA information attached)*. The EPA has stated that "Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals."

The information on the FDA website, entitled 'Perfluorochemicals: potential sources of and migration from food packaging' states, "Furthermore, relatively small quantities of perfluorochemicals are also used in the manufacturing of food-contact

substances that represent potential sources of oral exposure to these chemicals. The most recognizable products to consumers are the uses of perfluorochemicals in non-stick coatings (polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)) for cookware and also their use in paper coatings for oil and moisture resistance."
This does not specifically address the migration of these chemicals from pet food packaging into the pet food, which is handled by pet owners and consumed by pet animals who have very close contact with humans (including children).

Humans are exposed to these dangerous 'forever chemicals' through handling their pet's food, and their pets are ingesting contaminated food, according to the findings of the EWG. Prior to the EWG research, PFAs have been reportedly found both in the blood of humans and pets. The exposure to dry pet food and its packaging with PFAs are increasing these levels of contamination to a significantly high risk to the general population, including persons with disabilities and veterans with Service Animals, and will exacerbate health issues they may currently have and likely cause additional ones to develop.

C. Environmental Impact

We claim categorical exclusion under 25.30, 25.31, 25.32, 25.33, or 25.34 of this chapter or an environmental assessment under 25.40 of this chapter.

D. Economic Impact

Economic impact information will be submitted upon request of the commissioner.

E. Certification

The undersigned certifies, that, to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, this petition includes all information and views on which the petition relies, and that it includes representative data and information known to the petitioner which are unfavorable to the petition: '*Perfluorochemicals: potential sources of and migration from food packaging).*'

(b) (6) _____(Signature)

_Marcella Hernandez_____(Name of petitioner)

(b) (6) (Mailing address)

___(Telephone number)