



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 18 2009

W. Lyle Roberts, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Illinois Soybean Association
Bloomington, Illinois 61704

Dear Lyle:

I understand that you are being honored for your leadership in launching the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH). Congratulations!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) shares a goal with WISHH, which is to provide high-protein American soy products to food assistance programs in the United States and worldwide. Undernutrition, including protein deficiency, is a serious health concern and a major contributing cause of death in children under age five. Products such as textured soy protein contain at least 50 percent protein and can contribute significantly toward the alleviation of this concern.

As you know, USDA has worked with WISHH on a number of fronts, including documentation of the nutritional value of high-protein soy products for use in U.S. food assistance programs as well as development of soy-based products for these programs; implementation of programs supported by USDA's Market Access Program and Emerging Markets Program; provision of developing-country entrepreneurs with high-protein soy products as part of USDA's Quality Samples Program; and training food industry representatives from developing countries under USDA's Cochran Fellowship Program.

We at USDA appreciate the support of all who share one of the most important priorities of American agriculture: to feed the hungry in this country and around the world.

Again, Lyle, congratulations, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a faint circular stamp.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary