

WKH)' \$ ¶ V

approach to food safety. Rather than reacting after people become sick, the agency is now able to focus on preventing food safety problems. The law also directs FDA to create a comprehensive food import oversight system which, for the first time, makes importers responsible for the safety of the food products they bring into the United States.

)' \$ ¶ V HIIRUWV WR PRGHUQLJH LWV UHJXODWRU\ V\ VWHP health challenge begin this year in earnest with the finalization of the major implementing rules WKDW JRYHUQ)60 \$ ¶ V VFRSH DQG the Appropriations Committee have already allocated considerable additional resources for FDA food safety and FSMA implementation. Unfortunately, FDA still needs significantly more funding for FY2016 in order to retrain its inspection workforce, invest in new IT infrastructure, and assist growers and other regulated parties with training and technical assistance to meet the new standards. As you complete your efforts to conclude a final budget agreement for FY2016, we strongly urge you to meet the)' \$ ¶ V request for \$109.5 million for food safety modernization.

We thank you for your leadership and your support for FSMA implementation since the