



March 18, 2026

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) respectfully submits the following comment in support of the Citizen Petition to “Limit the Exposure of Refined Carbohydrates used in Industrial Processing in Order to Prevent Obesity, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease in Children and Adults” filed by David A. Kessler on August 12, 2025 (docket number FDA-2025-P-3071; hereinafter referred to as the “petition”). CSPI is a non-profit consumer education and advocacy organization that has worked since 1971 to improve the public’s health through better nutrition and safer food. CSPI has an extensive history of advocating for policies that aim to improve the nutritional quality and safety of the U.S. diet through food chemical safety regulatory reform, food labeling, restaurant nutrition standards, school meals and competitive foods nutrition standards, and federal dietary guidance. CSPI publishes *Nutrition Action* and is supported by *Nutrition Action* members, individual donors, and foundation grants. CSPI is an independent organization that does not accept any corporate funding.

This petition provides you with an opportunity to take a step towards addressing America's diet-related chronic disease epidemic. The petition calls on you to declare that processed refined carbohydrates used in ultra-processed foods can no longer be considered “generally recognized as safe” under the nation’s food safety laws. Though the petition does not address all the nutritional challenges posed by the American diet, it provides a clear and immediate path to addressing the harm of processed refined carbohydrates in the food supply.

This petition provides compelling evidence that there is a lack of scientific consensus that processed refined carbohydrates used in ultra-processed foods are generally recognized as safe. It is incumbent upon you to place the onus on the food industry to assure safety and demonstrate that these products, as the law requires, meet the test of “reasonable certainty of no harm.” We therefore write in support of this petition, which we believe will help ensure that our foods are not injurious to health as part of a more comprehensive plan to address diet-related disease.

Respectfully,

Aviva Musicus
Science Director
Center for Science in the Public Interest

Peter Lurie
President and Executive Director
Center for Science in the Public Interest