ZATECA®

ZATECA FOODS, LLC

July 14, 2004

Lydia E. Berry
Marketing Specialist
Standardization Section
USDA, AMS, FV, PPB
E-mail: lydia.berry@usda.gov

Dear Ms. Berry,

Our company is aware that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has received a petition from the National Food Processors Association (NFPA) to create grade standards specifically for canned refried beans. Zateca Foods, LLC is a manufacturer of pre-cooked and dehydrated bean products. One of our product lines is dehydrated refried beans. Our market for pre-cooked and dehydrated refried beans includes major fast food companies, food service distributors and grocery store chains. All of our customers have the option of buying canned refried beans instead of our dehydrated refried beans.

The purpose of this letter is to request that IF a grade standard is established for canned refried beans, that the scope of the grade standard include pre-cooked and dehydrated refried beans. We feel that if left out of the process for establishing a grade standard, we would be prejudiced in our ability to compete against canned refried beans. Furthermore, given the scope of the pre-cooked and dehydrated industry, our comments on establishing any grade standard for refried beans would be important to the process.

Upon notice of our inclusion, Zateca Foods will submit its comments for a establishing a grade standard. We view our inclusion in this process as being very important to our company. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Zateca Foods, LLC

Kregg L. Listen
President