

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2025

The Honorable Marty Makary
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Makary:

We write to express our concerns over the proposed removal and relocation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Division of Food Processing Science and Technology (DFPST) staff and operations out of Illinois - where it is currently located at Illinois Institute of Technology's (IIT) Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) - to the Washington, D.C. area. Such a decision would weaken our global leadership in the food space by eliminating the benefits of this co-location and collaboration with longstanding partners in academia and industry. We request that FDA maintain its DFPST operations in Illinois and continue to foster its relationship with IFSH in the state.

In 1988, FDA established its first Center of Excellence at Illinois Institute of Technology. Since that time, IFSH has developed into a one-of-a-kind applied food science research consortium comprised of the IIT, FDA, and companies in the food industry. In collaboration with FDA, IIT provides stakeholders with the opportunity to develop and exchange knowledge, experience, and expertise in the areas of food safety, food defense, and nutrition. IFSH is strategically located in the Chicago region - one of the world's leading food and beverage industry hubs - and is recognized as a global leader in food science research, advancing innovations in food safety, food defense, food processing, and nutrition. Due to the success of this model, FDA has established additional centers nationwide, focusing on other critical aspects of its mission.

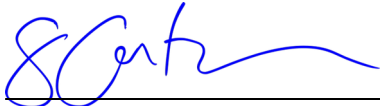
By bringing together the federal government, a major research university, and private industry, IFSH produces a significantly greater return on federal investment, enabling FDA to achieve more with less by partnering directly with industry and IIT and saving taxpayer dollars through greater government efficiency. By allowing the food industry, academia, and FDA to partner directly, IFSH fuels proactive prevention of food safety issues. Breaking or diminishing that consortium model would slow crisis response, threaten public safety, and ultimately lead to higher costs in the long run.

The 2022 powdered infant formula crisis and the 2022 avian flu outbreak in cattle, in which IFSH assisted with research and helped inform safety protocols, prevention strategies, and regulatory guidance, are recent examples of the strength of this collaboration and its ability to work together to better understand how to protect the American people. IFSH, FDA, DFPST, and industry partners are collaborating to enhance prevention strategies through research and technological advancements, ensuring that the food and beverages we consume are safe for everyone.

For these reasons, we reiterate our request that FDA refrain from relocating the DFPST to Washington D.C.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

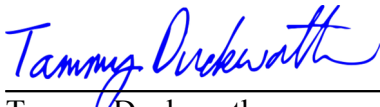
Sincerely,



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



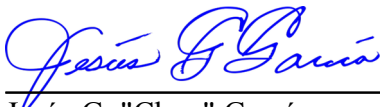
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



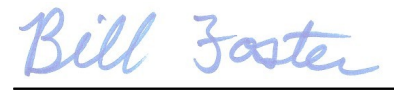
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



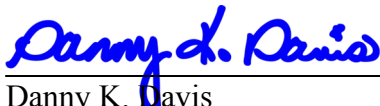
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



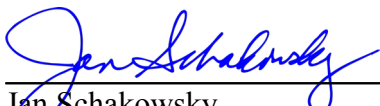
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress