

WASHINGTON, DC –

Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) has authored and delivered a letter co-signed by 12 of his House colleagues to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The letter calls on the Interagency Working Group on Food Marketed to Children (IWG) to complete and submit the standards for food marketing to children and teens - as originally tasked by Congress.

The 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act demanded that the IWG develop recommendations for standards of food marketing to children and teens, and report their proposed guidelines to Congress. The IWG – comprised of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention –has not completed the study, but instead proposed wide-ranging industry nutrition principles and marketing guidelines. These proposed standards are not what Congress requested, and they clash with the USDA's recently-updated dietary guidelines.

Terry, the source of the letter, called on the USDA to remove the proposed nutrition standards in the IWG's final report to Congress, expected next week.

**"Childhood obesity is a challenge deserving the attention of all Americans. However, this issue can't be solved by another overreach of government. We do not want our country to become a nanny state – especially when these poorly-considered guidelines infringe on free speech, and will do little to nothing to empower Americans to make healthy decisions," Terry said.**