



The Juice Products Association Welcomes Comments from Congressional Leaders on Brix; Urges Swift Federal Action

Washington, D.C.— The Juice Products Association (JPA) extends its gratitude to Energy and Commerce Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr. for holding a hearing this summer on Capitol Hill, where [H.R. 1750](#), the bipartisan *Defending Domestic Orange Juice Production Act*, was considered. This legislation proposes a modest, yet essential, adjustment by lowering the Brix level for pasteurized orange juice from 10.5% to 10%.

JPA also appreciates the efforts of Florida Representatives Gus Bilirakis and Kat Cammack in seeking further clarification on the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) timeline for the long-awaited rulemaking to update the outdated Brix level in the Standard of Identity (SOI), which was established in the 1960's. In response to Rep. Cammack's call for swift federal action to address the Brix level at the hearing, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods Jim Jones assured the Committee that the agency is working diligently to publish a proposed rule to amend the SOI. The JPA applauds Rep. Cammack for prioritizing this issue and acknowledging its urgent need for resolution – either legislatively or through agency action.

As Florida's orange season commences, we face an urgent challenge that threatens growers' ability to utilize this year's crop for orange juice production. With the season lasting only a few months, any delay could result in a significant loss of opportunity. Moreover, the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Milton and the ongoing issues with citrus greening disease has severely impacted Florida's orange production. The hurricane's aftermath has left our growers in dire need of immediate support to recover and sustain their operations. Without urgent assistance, the future of Florida's orange juice industry is at stake.

The JPA shares the commitment to advocating for relief to alleviate the burdens faced by the citrus industry, including growers, processors, and all stakeholders who rely on this important domestic commodity. We stand ready to collaborate with the FDA to expedite the rulemaking process and work with Congress to pass H.R. 1750. The JPA strongly urges action as soon as possible as there are no recognized concerns about taste, nutrition, health, or safety associated with this adjustment.