



# AMERICAN MUSHROOM INSTITUTE

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December 20, 2004

Mr. Alan M. Cotich  
NutriCore NorthEast, Inc.  
144 Roosevelt Avenue Suite 100  
York, PA 17404

Re: Endorsement of NutriCore NorthEast (Center of Excellence in Foods & Nutrition Research)

Dear Mr. Cotich:

It is with pleasure that the American Mushroom Institute expresses its enthusiastic endorsement for continued development of the National Center of Excellence in Foods and Nutrition Research (NutriCore). This association encourages its members and their elected state and federal officials to consider their support to this collaborative partnership that will foster food and nutrition research and economic development throughout the northeast United States.

It is our understanding that NutriCore's principle purposes include:

- 1) Developing a national nutrition strategy
- 2) Providing food industries with collaborative resources to perform health and nutrition research and development
- 3) Providing industry with centralized resources to identify leading edge projects and researchers, program management, project coordination, intellectual property protection, technology transfer and funding that supports the national nutrition strategy
- 4) Providing federal agencies with a single, highly focused organization to coordinate, manage and facilitate food and nutrition research and development
- 5) Providing industry with representation and collaboration with federal agencies on issues of nutrition development
- 6) Providing the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other agencies with a full partner in the development and validation of nutrition education and advocacy positions

We look forward to the successes that NutriCore will bring and are happy to become involved in this exciting initiative in a capacity you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Phelps".

Laura Phelps  
President