

## Has Your Honey Been "Laundered"?

Tell the FDA to Set Strong Standards for Imported Honey

## **Weil Farms Customers**

As I have been telling my customers for years, only buy local raw honey from trusted beekeepers and not in big box stores or grocery stores. Now we finally have a new term for this problem... "honey laundering." This is honey that's been tainted, or run through another country before being imported into the U.S.

Half of all honey in the U.S. is imported, and there have been increasing cases of fraud. <u>Tell the Food and Drug Administration that it's time for strong rules that keep unsafe imported honey off your plate.</u>

There is a lot of fraud that goes on to disguise where honey is coming from. Recently China got in trouble for sending unfairly cheap honey to the U.S. market, and now a lot of honey from China is being "trans-shipped" through other countries to evade restrictions on how much honey China can send to the U.S.

This not only undercuts U.S. honey producers on price, but there have also been safety and quality problems with imported honey — blends that mix in cheaper sweeteners like corn syrup or sugar and discoveries of honey tainted with lead and unapproved antibiotics like chloramphenicol.

The FDA recently put out a "guidance" to the honey industry saying that if something else is added like corn syrup or a flavor, you can't label it as honey. This doesn't go far enough.

## Does Your Honey Contain Corn Syrup or Other Contaminants?



Tell the FDA to Set Strong
Regulations for Imported
Honey!

We want them to set up a tougher standard that would legally define what honey is and let regulators keep unsafe honey out of the U.S. <u>Ask the FDA to implement strong rules that will help crack down on "honey laundering."</u>

As part of the "honey laundering," the honey is so processed that there is no pollen left in it, which means you can't do any testing of the pollen to see where the honey comes from. With a tougher rule, the FDA could require that some pollen be left in so tests could show the origin of the honey and stop the laundering through other countries. Take action now to make sure that imported honey is legal and safe!

Thanks for taking action,

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