

To whom it may concern,

Having advocated for legal regulation on trans-fat usage by food industry since as early as 2011 along with others in the medical field, I am delighted to see the Government's proposed amendment to Cap 132AF. I am writing in support of the proposed regulation over partially hydrogenated oils (PHO, a major source of trans-fat in diet) in food.

PHO is proven to increase LDL level and reduce HDL level in blood, thereby raising the cardiovascular risk factor for coronary heart disease, atherosclerosis, stroke and heart attack. It has now been a global trend for governments not to tolerate the health burden from PHO usage by food industry. In local community, several surveys conducted by FEHD and Consumer Council had shown that local trans-fat usage on non-pre-packaged food is prevalent, and therefore a significant public health issue.

Tighter regulation on the PHO use has long been favored by the public. LegCo has passed a non-binding motion urging for legislation against the use of trans-fat in restaurants as early as in 2007. In a small campaign I led in 2011, above 80% of online questionnaire respondents agreed for tighter legal regulation on trans-fat use, and over 500 signatures from citizens were gathered in total within a month in support of such legislation.

For the above reasons, I would support regarding PHO as a prohibited substance in food by prohibiting under the Regulations the import of any edible fats and oils containing PHO and the sale of any food (including edible fats and oils) containing PHOs. I am also in support of the requirement that prepackaged foods containing hydrogenated oils should have such information indicated in the list of ingredients and/or nutritional labeling.

Yours faithfully,
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