# Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2026

Kyle Diamantas
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Acting Commissioner Diamantas:

We write urging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to finalize guidance regarding opiate alkaloid contamination on poppy seeds.

Unwashed poppy seeds remain a significant threat to the American public. They are often contaminated with illicit substances including morphine and codeine. At least 19 Americans are confirmed to have died from morphine overdoses, and an additional 20 Americans experienced non-fatal overdoses after consuming contaminated poppy seeds.[1,2]

We commend FDA's recent actions to protect the American public from dangerous unwashed poppy seeds. On April 21, 2026, FDA launched a webpage that describes federal research and monitoring of opiate alkaloids on poppy seeds, adverse health effects, and additional key consumer information.[3] On June 29, 2026, FDA's Human Foods Program announced that it intends to develop guidance that would establish action levels for opiate alkaloids on poppy seeds.[4]

It is imperative that FDA finalizes official guidance that establishes action levels for opiate alkaloids on poppy seeds as soon as possible to prevent harm and further deaths. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely

Tom Cotton
United States Senator

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

[1] https://www.cspinet.org/sites/default/files/attachment/2.5.2021_Petition_to_Establish_Safe_Opiate_Limits_for_Poppy_Seeds.pdf
[2] https://www.cspi.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/misc/Contaminated_Poppy_Fact_Sheet_1-13-2021.pdf
[3] https://www.fda.gov/food/natural-toxins-food/opiate-alkaloids-poppy-seeds
[4] https://www.fda.gov/food/guidance-documents-regulatory-information-topic-food-and-dietary-supplements/foods-program-guidance-under-development



John Boozman
United States Senator



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



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