

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Chairman Wolfe Applauds FDA Action to Phase Out Trans Fats in US Food Supply

Wolfe-Initiated Local Law Restricting Use of Trans Fats
in Effect in Rockland since 2011

New City, NY (June 16, 2015)– Alden H. Wolfe, Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature applauded the decision by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require food manufacturers to eliminate or significantly reduce the use of partially hydrogenated oils (“trans fats”) in processed food products. ([FDA Announcement](#)) In January of 2011, Chairman Wolfe authored "The Rockland County Healthy Heart Act"; a local law that restricted the use of trans fat in food items prepared or served in local food establishments. At that time, the American Heart Association issued a memorandum in support of Chairman Wolfe's law and continued its lobbying efforts in support of virtual elimination of artificial trans fats in U.S. food sources.

Partially hydrogenated oils are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oil to make it more solid and to extend product shelf life. However, these substances create certain health risks, including an increased risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. The determination by the FDA concludes that trans fats are not "generally recognized as safe".

The FDA has set a compliance period of three years to afford manufacturers sufficient time to reformulate products to remove trans fats or to petition the FDA to permit specific uses. The Grocery Manufacturers Association reports that the U.S. food industry has already reduced the use of trans fats by more than 85 percent by moving to alternative fats, such as blends of vegetable oils.

"I praise the FDA for this landmark decision because of its tremendous health benefits for all Americans. We will see further reduction of trans fats in America's daily diet," said Chairman Wolfe. "Reducing these artificial products in what we eat will improve our health and save millions by reducing disease. The American public wins with healthier choices in restaurants and at our markets. "

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