



WHEREAS:

Nanotechnology is the science of manipulating matter at the molecular scale to build structures, tools, or products, known as nanomaterials. These extremely small particles create opportunities for innovation; however the scientific community has raised serious questions about the safety of nanomaterials.

The novel properties of nanomaterials offer new opportunities for food industry applications, including stronger flavorings and colorings. However these same properties may also result in greater toxicity for human health and the environment. Because of their small size, nanoparticles are more likely to enter cells, tissues, and organs where they may interfere with normal cellular function and cause damage and cell death. Nanomaterials such as silver, titanium dioxide, zinc, and zinc oxide, have been found to be highly toxic to cells in laboratory studies. Recent research on the ingestion of inorganic nanoparticles, has raised concerns regarding toxicity to humans and the environment. Studies show that nanoparticles less than 300 nanometers in size are able to pass through cell membranes in organisms; that nanomaterials can cause DNA and chromosomal damage, inflammation, and genital malformations, among other harms; that titanium dioxide nanoparticles caused brain damage in fish, causing nerve cells to die.

Given recent scientific findings, proponents believe companies that use nanomaterials in consumer products may face significant liability and reputational risks. In 2008, the insurance giant, Swiss Re, noted that “what makes nanotechnology completely new from the point of view of insuring against risk is the unforeseeable nature of the risks it entails and the recurrent and cumulative losses it could lead to, given the new properties -- hence different behavior -- of nanotechnologically manufactured products....” In 2011, Gen Re noted, “There are, at this time, dozens of studies associating exposure to various nanomaterials with adverse health effects.”

We are concerned about liability arising from use of nanotechnology in food products, particularly foods such as donuts which are ingested by children, whose developing bodies are more vulnerable.

Proponents believe titanium-dioxide nanomaterials are likely being used in Dunkin' Donuts without adequate testing to ensure safety, and without notice or warning of their presence or potential hazard. Proponents believe that the best way to protect the public and shareholder value is to avoid using nanomaterials until and unless they have been subject to robust evaluation and demonstrated to be safe for human health and the environment, and to clearly label all products that contain nanomaterials.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Shareholders request the Board publish by November 1, 2014, at reasonable cost and excluding proprietary information, a report on Dunkin's policies regarding public health concerns of nanomaterials in the company's products or packaging. This report should identify products or packaging that currently contains nanomaterials, and discuss any actions, aside from regulatory compliance, management is taking to reduce or eliminate risk associated with human health and environmental impacts, such as eliminating, or disclosing, the use of nanomaterials until they are proven safe through long-term testing.