

A M E R I C A N  B E V E R A G E  
A S S O C I A T I O N

March 3, 2006

The Honorable John Boehner  
Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

Thank you for scheduling H.R. 4167, the “National Uniformity for Food Act,” for a vote before the House of Representatives. This important legislation is an opportunity for Congress to underscore its belief that Americans deserve a safe and reliable set of standards for our food supply, without confusing warnings or unscientific safety thresholds set by various states. The food and beverage industries are a significant part of our national economy, and our locally-based network of soft drink and other beverage bottlers is particularly pleased that Congress will have a chance to vote on this critical issue.

The beverages sold by our members in Vermont or Montana are the same as those sold in California. There is no rationale for requiring identical products to bear different labels. Furthermore, requiring bottlers to maintain individual inventories for differing state labeling requirements would be prohibitively expensive and a logistical nightmare given the nature of the industry’s system of production and distribution.

The American Beverage Association strongly endorses H.R. 4167, as introduced, and we oppose any “crippling” amendments. As you communicate with Members of the House, I wanted to let you know that we intend to “key vote” this issue both on any crippling amendments and final passage. Many thanks for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Barbara Hiden  
Vice President, Federal Affairs

CC: The Honorable Roy Blunt

The Honorable Mike Rogers