



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2006

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AMERICAN BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT
ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE HEARING
ON NATIONAL UNIFORMITY FOR FOOD ACT 2006

In response to today's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing on S. 3128, "The National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006," Susan K. Neely, president and chief executive officer of the American Beverage Association (ABA), issued the following statement:

"The beverage industry applauds the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for holding today's hearing to set the record straight on S. 3128, the 'National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006.'

This legislation has been in the works for many years and, if passed, would grant ultimate authority to the world's leading food safety agency, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, over food safety standards and warning labels on packaged foods. In so doing, it would provide consumers across the nation with a single set of standards as defined by the country's top food scientists and experts, essentially providing all Americans with the same level of confidence and protection.

In addition to defining how this legislation would benefit Americans, today's hearing provided an opportunity to correct misinformation regarding state's rights and ensure their ability to make and enforce policy on food safety, sanitation, and handling of hazardous foods, for example.

Uniformity laws are nothing new for our country. In fact, our government has created uniform national laws for Americans since the 18th century. Although important to the food and beverage industry, the 'National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006' is most critical to consumers. It would further protect them by applying the same standard as that already used in other federally-regulated areas of food and medicine. Passing S. 3128 is a bold and necessary step to ensure that our nation's citizens are protected equally, regardless of where they reside."

The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the broad spectrum of companies that manufacture and distribute non-alcoholic beverages in the United States.

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