

American Bakers Association

NEWS

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ABA Urges Senators to Support National Uniformity for Food Act

(Washington, DC) - A key hearing will be held tomorrow, July 27, 2006, in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to address the "National Uniformity for Food Act" (S. 3128). National Uniformity is an important issue to the baking industry and the American Bakers Association (ABA) and its members have been active over the last several weeks asking Members of the U.S. Senate to support or co-sponsor this legislation. The House passed their version of this legislation (H.R. 4167) with a strong bipartisan vote of 283-139 on March 8th.

In addition to communicating with Senators, ABA also sent letters to key State Attorney Generals in Florida, Georgia, Kansas, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania asking them to support this legislation which would allow the food industry to provide consumers with a single set of food safety standards. In its letter, ABA stressed that H.R. 4167/S. 3128 would not impede the ability of states to enforce food adulteration requirements or to remove unsafe foods from the market. "National Uniformity is common-sense legislation that will aid consumers in making an educated decision for themselves and their families in a constantly changing and sometimes confusing food labeling environment", said Robb MacKie, ABA President & CEO.

The National Uniformity for Food Act provides for national, uniform food safety standards and warning requirements. If enacted this legislation would eliminate consumer confusion and bolster confidence because the information would be consistent from state to state and formulated by the FDA, the world's leading food safety agency.

The legislation amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to create a uniform, national system that not only recognizes the role of state and local governments in the regulation of food products, but also integrates them into the national system.

Scheduled to testify during tomorrow's Senate hearing are:

Panel I- Senator Saxby Chambliss, Georgia; Senator Barbara Boxer, California and Senator Dianne Feinstein, California.

Panel II:

Mr. William Stadtlander, Owner, Homestat Foods, Dublin, OH

Mr. Peter Barton Hutt, Senior Counsel, Covington and Burling, Washington, DC

Dr. Elsa Murano, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Mr. William Hubbard, former Associate Commissioner for Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Chapel Hill, NC.

“It’s extremely important that our members and the rest of the baking industry contact their Senators either by faxing letters or phone calls urging their support for this critical legislation. ABA will continue to communicate our message to lawmakers and move this legislation forward,” said Lee Sanders, ABA Senior Vice President, Government & Public Affairs.

For more information on National Uniformity please contact Lee Sanders or Mike Florio at (202) 789-0300 or visit www.americanbakers.org or www.uniformityforfood.org/default.htm.

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