

California Coalition

February 24, 2006

*Agricultural Council of
California*

*California Cattlemen's
Association*

*California Farm Bureau
Federation*

*California Grocers
Association*

*California Independent
Grocers & Convenience
Stores*

*California League of Food
Processors*

*California Manufacturers
and Technology Association*

*California Poultry
Federation*

*California Restaurant
Association*

Dairy Institute of California

*Western Growers
Association*

California Delegation
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support - HR 4167 – National Uniformity for Food Act

Dear Representative:

We are writing to you to urge your support of H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act. As representatives of major agricultural producers, retailers and manufacturers, our coalition believes the legislation is in the best interest of California businesses and consumers.

The National Uniformity for Food Act is an excellent framework for a federal-state partnership to provide scientific information to consumers about the food they purchase and eat. Some opponents of H.R. 4167 argue that the bill would invalidate Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. The legislation has developed a system that will allow all states, including California, to advocate that their food standards be applied nationwide. At the same time, it provides checks and balances on states that might want to require a warning label that may not be scientifically justified. As a result, we believe that this legislation strengthens the impact of California's Proposition 65 by providing a forum for the state to extend consumer protections that are currently unique to California to the rest of the country, so long as there is a scientific basis for any additional warnings.

As we become an increasingly global economy, it is important that food labeling requirements are consistent across the country. Distribution channels increasingly cross state boundaries on a regular basis. By imposing different state labeling requirements on food products, distribution efficiency and consistency in information is eliminated and production costs can significantly increase. Consumers and producers can become confused about the facts and who they should trust when making their production and consumption decisions. We believe the Food and Drug Administration should be the axis for making these decisions and applying them to all consumers.

The National Uniformity for Food Act provides the appropriate checks and balances to ensure that all individuals across the country are provided the same science-based, highest level of food safety protection. We respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.