



NEWS

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Nation's Food Retailers and Wholesalers Applaud House for Passing National Uniformity for Food Act

WASHINGTON, DC — March 8, 2006 — Food retailers and wholesalers across the U.S. applaud the House for approving the National Uniformity for Food Act this evening. “This legislation will deliver much-needed clarity and consistency for consumers in the standards safeguarding America’s food supply,” said Tim Hammonds, president and CEO of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), after the vote.

The legislation establishes a system to harmonize myriad state and federal laws governing food safety and warnings to protect consumers. It seeks to eliminate conflicting and inconsistent regulations that subject identical food products to different standards among different states and the federal government.

States can petition the FDA to have their food safety regulations incorporated into the national standards or to have them exempted from the uniformity requirement. State laws would remain in effect during the review process.

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Food Marketing Institute (FMI) conducts programs in research, education, industry relations and public affairs on behalf of its 1,500 member companies — food retailers and wholesalers — in the United States and around the world. FMI’s U.S. members operate approximately 26,000 retail food stores with a combined annual sales volume of \$340 billion — three-quarters of all retail food store sales in the United States. FMI’s retail membership is composed of large multi-store chains, regional firms and independent supermarkets. Its international membership includes 200 companies from 50 countries.