



February 27, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative:

The Food Products Association (FPA) and its members urge that you support H.R. 4167, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005," when this legislation is considered by the full House of Representatives. Passage of this important legislation is necessary to move forward in providing uniform, national standards and warning requirements for foods.

The Food Products Association is the largest trade association serving the food and beverage industry in the United States and worldwide, representing member companies on scientific and public policy issues involving food safety, food security, nutrition, consumer affairs and international trade. Since FPA was founded nearly 100 years ago, our focus has been on supporting the use of the best science available as the basis for laws and regulations governing the food industry – including labeling requirements.

H.R. 4167 enjoys bipartisan support in the House, with 227 Republican and Democratic cosponsors. It is common-sense legislation, designed to provide uniform information to consumers on the foods they purchase and serve to their families.

This legislation creates a uniform, national system that recognizes the role of state and local governments in the regulation of food products and integrates them into a national system. The bill provides for the review and harmonization of state food laws with Federal standards, so that states and the Federal government will work collaboratively to inform consumers, rather than maintaining differing requirements.

"Uniformity is a concept that Congress has recognized in the past. For example the 'Nutrition Labeling and Education Act,' passed by Congress in 1990, which mandated the Nutrition Facts panel now found on most food packages, contained uniformity provisions.

"Moreover, uniformity exists between states and the Federal government for foods regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is logical that such uniformity also would be of value between the Food and Drug Administration and state requirements.

Consumers in all states deserve consistent, science-based standards governing warning requirements associated with labeling, advertising and other forms of communication by food companies. Therefore, we urge that you support this legislation, which will provide strong benefits to food companies and consumers, and that you oppose any weakening amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cal Dooley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cal Dooley  
President and CEO

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