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Food Products Association President and CEO Expresses Strong Support for National Uniformity for Food Act

(Washington, D.C.) – On the eve of a Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) hearing to consider S. 3128, the National Uniformity for Food Act, Cal Dooley, President and CEO of the Food Products Association (FPA), made the following comments:

“The Food Products Association is pleased that the Senate HELP Committee is holding this hearing on the important topic of national uniformity. FPA strongly supports the National Uniformity for Food Act because it will help ensure that all consumers, regardless of where they reside, will be provided with the same, accurate, science-based food safety information.

“If national uniformity is adopted, a consumer will be able to pick a product off the grocery shelf in any state and will be able to read – in addition to nutrition information such as the calories and nutrients found in the product – consistent science-based warnings that have been reviewed and accepted by government health authorities.

“Relying on the best science available to state and federal governments, the Uniformity 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 that can vary from state to state.

“More than a decade ago, the Food and Drug Administration established national nutrition labeling requirements, which preempt differing requirements by states. As a result, consumers in all 50 states can review nutrition information about food products and the ingredients a product contains.

“National uniformity is clearly not a new concept. Congress also has established uniform requirements for prescription drugs, allergen labeling, meat and poultry standards, medical devices and pesticide tolerances. The National Uniformity for Food Act is a logical extension of this approach to food safety standards and warning requirements.

“This bill is a commonsense piece of legislation that is in the best interests of consumers, and we urge the members of the HELP Committee to support it.”

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The Food Products Association is the largest trade association serving the food and beverage industry in the United States and worldwide. FPA's laboratory centers, scientists and professional staff provide technical and regulatory assistance to member companies and represent the food industry on scientific and public policy issues involving food safety, food security, nutrition, consumer affairs and international trade.