

August 23, 2006

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3102

Dear Senator Bingaman,

On behalf of the 2 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the country, we are writing to you for your support on S. 3128, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006." This important piece of legislation will establish a single standard for food safety, helping consumers, families and businesses in an ever-changing and currently confusing food labeling environment.

Under the current system, food regulation is composed of a variety of different and sometimes inconsistent requirements. This "patchwork" of different state laws adopting different regulatory requirements on identical food products is confusing to consumers and burdensome for businesses that distribute products across state lines. This imposes unnecessary complexity and cost on food producers and distributors throughout the United States. By bringing a uniform code to our industry, the National Uniformity for Food Act represents a major step forward in assuring that there are rational, scientifically-based and consistent standards in all 50 states.

The National Uniformity for Food Act also takes a measured approach to national uniformity for food labeling by providing a mechanism for an orderly review of existing state regulations that may differ from Federal regulations. By granting states the ability to have the Federal government adopt their state standard, this bill carefully balances the need for uniformity while respecting the important role state and local governments have in ensuring the safety of the food supply.

Once again, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to support S. 3128, the National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 842-1212.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Barrera
President and CEO