



C. MANLY MOLPUS  
PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

February 22, 2006

The Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 4167, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005." This legislation is a top priority for GMA's members. 227 Members of Congress-both Democrats and Republicans-have signaled their support by co-sponsoring the legislation. The Energy and Commerce Committee favorably reported the legislation on December 15, 2005, and it is expected to be scheduled for the House floor soon.

H.R. 4167 is common-sense legislation that will help consumers make educated decisions for themselves and their families in an ever-changing and currently confusing food labeling environment. Consumers deserve a single standard when it comes to food safety, and this bill will allow states and the FDA to work collaboratively in establishing sound food safety policies that benefit, not confuse, consumers.

The legislation recognizes that it makes no sense to have different states adopting different regulatory requirements on identical food products. This bill will instead provide consumers with a single set of consistent, science-based food safety regulations for food products sold in all 50 states.

Under H.R. 4167, uniform food safety standards would be developed in cooperation with state policymakers and based on the best scientific evidence available. The bill utilizes a deliberate, measured approach by providing a mechanism for a thorough 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.

GMA represents the world's leading branded food, beverage and consumer products companies. GMA member companies employ more than 2.5 million workers in all 50 states and account for more than \$680 billion in annual sales.

Passage of H.R. 4167 is critical to GMA and we urge you to vote for this important legislation when it is brought to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Manly Molpus".

C. Manly Molpus  
President and CEO

GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION