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June 22, 2006

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The Honorable Harry Reid
US Senate Democratic Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), one of the most influential advocacy organizations in the nation representing 14 national Hispanic organizations, I am writing to urge you to support S.B. 3128, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006." Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Pat Roberts (R-KA), and Ben Nelson (D-NE) introduced the legislation on May 25, 2006. On March 8, the House passed the legislation (H.R. 4167) with a strong bipartisan vote of 283-139.

This legislation recognizes that it makes no sense to have different states adopting different regulatory requirements on identical food products. S.B. 3128 will instead provide consumers with a single set of consistent, science-based food safety regulations for food products sold in all 50 states.

Under the current system, food regulations are composed of different and sometimes contradictory requirements. This imposes unnecessary complexity and cost on makers of food throughout the United States. These costs are most often passed on to consumers. By bringing a uniform code, the legislation represents a major step towards ensuring consumer confidence in the food they buy for their families.

S.B. 3128 takes a measured approach to national uniformity for food by providing a mechanism for a thorough, orderly review of existing state regulations that may differ from federal regulations. By granting states the ability to have the federal government adopt their 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.

Founded in 1986, HACR is one of the most influential advocacy organizations in the nation representing 14 national Hispanic organizations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Our mission is to advance the inclusion of Hispanics in corporate America at a level commensurate with our economic contributions. To that end, HACR focuses on four areas of corporate responsibility and community reciprocity: employment, procurement, philanthropy, and governance.

Once again, we urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlos F. Orta
President and CEO

HACR

1444 I Street N.W.
Suite 850
Washington, DC 20005

Tel (202) 835-9672
Fax (202) 457-0455

<http://www.hacr.org>