



International Dairy Foods Association
Milk Industry Foundation
National Cheese Institute
International Ice Cream Association



SUPPORT H.R. 4167

National Uniformity of Food Labeling

February 28, 2006

Members of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives:

America's dairy producers and processors urge you to vote for H.R. 4167, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005."

The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) and the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) support H.R. 4167, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in the areas of food safety tolerance setting and warning labeling because it takes a measured, science based approach, to achieve labeling uniformity. The bill contains a method for the orderly review and harmonization of existing state food safety adulteration laws and warnings as they relate to Federal law. No existing state labeling law would be preempted without this review and state requirements under petition would stay in effect during that review.

H.R. 4167 recognizes that it makes no sense to have a "patchwork quilt" of different states adopting different regulatory requirements on identical food product labeling. National uniformity in food laws is actually the norm, not the exception. All meat and poultry regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have national uniformity under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) of 1990 established uniform nutrition labeling requirements on manufactured foods. In addition, the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996 included a uniformity provision for pesticide tolerance standards in food products. H.R. 4167 completes the job by establishing national uniformity for food additives and warning labels.

H.R. 4167 enjoys the support of 227 bipartisan co-sponsors and was reported by a bipartisan vote from the Energy and Commerce Committee on December 15, 2005. America's dairy industry believes consumers deserve a single standard when it comes to food safety, and this bill will allow states and the Food and Drug Administration to work collaboratively in establishing sound food safety labeling policies that benefit, not confuse consumers. We urge your vote for H.R. 4167.

Sincerely,

Connie Tipton
President and CEO
International Dairy Foods Association

Jerry Kozak
President and CEO
National Milk Producers Federation