



February 22, 2006

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the nation's foodservice distributors, I urge you to support H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act, when it comes up for a vote in the House of Representatives. This bipartisan legislation will provide consumers with a single set of science-based food safety regulations for products sold across the country.

IFDA is a Washington, D.C. based trade organization representing foodservice distributors throughout the U.S., Canada, and internationally. IFDA's 130+ members include broadline, systems, and specialty foodservice distributors that supply food and related products to restaurants, institutions, and other food away from home foodservice operations. IFDA members operate more than 550 facilities, and sell more than \$75 billion in food and related products to the fastest growing sector in the food industry.

Under the current system, food regulation is composed of a variety of different and sometimes inconsistent requirements. H.R. 4167 would create a single nationwide system that will provide increased clarity for the consumer on food safety issues. By creating a mechanism for a thorough review of existing state regulations, the bill will result in the most comprehensive and scientifically sound food safety standards.

The legislation would not impact state authority on traditional local food enforcement matters such as freshness dating, grade labeling and state inspection stamps as well as recalls and other state enforcement powers. It would preserve the authority of states to act if presented with an imminent hazard. States would also remain free to issue their own public warnings at any time and under any circumstances.

H.R. 4167 will create a national system for the regulation of food products which recognizes and integrates federal, state and local efforts. I hope you will support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

David French
Sr. Vice President, Government Relations