

LOUISIANA
WHOLESALE
AS A % OF

February 22, 2005

The Honorable Richard Baker
U.S. House of Representatives
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1806

Fax: (202) 225-7313

Dear Representative Baker:

As Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Wholesalers, I wanted to ask for your support on H.R. 4167 – the National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005 by Rep. Mike Rogers. It provides for national, uniform food safety standards and warning requirements. It will create a national uniform system that will recognize the role of state and local governments in the regulation of food products.

Louisiana has enacted many rules and statutes addressing safety and health issues and these would not be hindered by any federal legislation. There are steps in place in the legislation to provide for a review of existing state regulations that may differ from a federal regulation. This legislation would also be achieved gradually as the FDA acts on states' petitions. If a particular food or ingredient is not addressed, we are free to set and enforce our own standards. Uniformity will benefit all involved in the food industry and especially for the small business owner who struggles to meet different state standards in their manufacturer of food items.

H.R. 4167 would put everyone on a level playing field and reduce the confusion of different standards in other states. Please join others in supporting H.R. 4167.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Tatman
Executive Director