

March 1, 2006

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: NAM KEY MANUFACTURING VOTE**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I urge you to support H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act, and oppose all amendments, substitutes and procedural motions that could significantly weaken the bill.

As you may know, roughly 70 percent of all products move across state lines. Varying state standards hinder the free and efficient flow of goods, making this measure an appropriate congressional response under the Commerce Clause. While this bill applies primarily to the food sector, its reach extends to many other industries. The current multi-tiered regulatory environment is highly inefficient, excessively burdensome for U.S. manufacturers and confusing for U.S. consumers. Furthermore, varying labeling requirements could potentially be viewed as non-tariff barriers and place the United States in violation of World Trade Organization rules.

H.R. 4167 takes a measured, science-based approach to setting uniform standards for food safety and warning labels. States could, under the bill, petition the FDA to add or change these standards. The bill also preserves states' authority to act quickly when presented with an imminent hazard and would not impact state authority on traditional local food enforcement matters.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 4167, including votes on the rule, amendments, substitutes and/or procedural motions will be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the NAM voting record for the 109th Congress. Eligibility for the NAM Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence will be based on a member's record on Key Manufacturing Votes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Timmons  
Senior Vice President for Policy and Government Relations