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## **NFI Statement in Support of House Passage for Food Uniformity Bill**

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) supports HR 4167, The National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005, which is scheduled to be considered by Congress on Thursday. The legislation would create a consistent national system that not only recognizes the role of state and local governments in the regulation of food products, but also integrates them into the national system.

John Connelly, president of NFI said, "The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the leading authority on food safety and we in the seafood industry believe this legislation would provide much-needed consistency in messages received by consumers about the foods they eat."

The bill provides that where FDA has acted by setting a safety labeling standard for a food, states would adopt and enforce the same labeling standard. If FDA has not set a safety labeling standard for a particular substance in food, states would remain free to set and enforce their own. The bill also provides for national uniformity in product warnings required of the regulated industry.

Connelly added, "The authority of the states to issue their own warnings remains well within their rights, and this law would not curb that ability. At the same time, consumers should not be discouraged from eating affordable and nutritious meals, such as seafood, and this bill would ensure consumers enjoy consistent labeling information across the country."

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*NFI is the leading trade association for the fish and seafood industry whose members represent a variety of businesses ranging from the water to the table. For more information visit our website at [www.AboutSeafood.com](http://www.AboutSeafood.com).*