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## **Seafood Industry Statement in Support of Senate Uniformity for Food Bill**

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) supports S. 3128, "The National Uniformity for Food Act," which is scheduled for a hearing today in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. The legislation would provide for science-based uniform food safety standards and warning requirements so that Americans in every state are protected equally while recognizing the role of state and local governments in the regulation of food products.

NFI President John Connelly said, "The health professionals at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are the leading authorities on food safety. We in the seafood community believe this legislation would provide much-needed consistency in messages provided to consumers about the foods they eat. This bill would provide consumers nationwide with consistent food safety information, just as we do now with nutrition and allergen labeling."

The National Uniformity for Food Act 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 standard. The bill also allows for a petition process that would enable states with unique packaging laws to have their law reviewed for acceptance by the FDA.

Connelly added, "Consumers deserve a single standard when it comes to food safety – wholesome seafood in Virginia is just as wholesome in California – and this bill will allow states and the FDA to work collaboratively to establish the best way to communicate the message of food safety to consumers."

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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).*