



March 8, 2006

Dear Representative:

We are writing to urge you to support H.R. 4167, the “National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005.” **The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) considers this a key vote for retail and wholesale grocers.** **The House is expected to take up the measure today and we urge you to vote for the bill and oppose any amendments that would defeat the purpose of the legislation in providing a uniform national standard for food safety. Rep. Capps may offer such an amendment.**

H.R. 4167 is common-sense legislation that will help consumers make educated decisions in an ever-changing and currently confusing food labeling environment. The legislation will provide consumers with a single set of consistent, science-based food safety regulations for food products sold in all 50 states.

A uniform national standard for food safety will enhance the efficiencies in America’s food distribution system that allow the grocery industry to provide consumers with some of the safest and most affordable food in the world. Under our current system, states may impose differing and sometimes contradictory, regulations. This system poses significant hardships for the entire grocery industry from manufacturers to wholesalers and retailers. Wholesalers that distribute to multiple states may find themselves having to segregate products according to differing state requirements. Multi-state retailers and grocery manufacturers face hardships as they may be required to label identical products differently according to state requirements—a tremendous burden.

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. N.G.A. retail and wholesale members accounted for \$200 billion of U.S. grocery sales last year.

Passage of H.R. 4167 will benefit America’s consumers and retail and wholesale grocers. **We urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation on the House floor and oppose any amendments that would defeat the purpose of H.R. 4167 in providing a uniform national standard for food safety.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Wenning".

Thomas F. Wenning
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik R. Lieberman".

Erik R. Lieberman
Director of Government Affairs