



News Release

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N.G.A. Applauds Passage of National Uniformity for Food Act

Arlington, VA -The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) applauds the passage by the House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 8 of the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005" (H.R. 4167). The bill passed by a margin of 283-139. "This legislation is a win-win for consumers and the entire grocery industry," said Thomas K. Zaucha, N.G.A. President and CEO. Zaucha added, "this bill will give the public a single set of consistent food safety regulations based on sound FDA science and 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. I encourage the Senate to now act to pass this important bill."

Under the current food safety system in the United States, 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. H.R. 4167 will provide relief from this burden while enhancing food safety by strengthening the federal-state partnership on such matters.

The legislation contains key protections for state laws and will not impact state authority on food enforcement matters such as freshness dating, grade labeling, state inspection stamps and recalls.

For more information please visit: <http://www.uniformityforfood.org>. N.G.A. is a member of the National Uniformity for Food Coalition—a broad group of food industry businesses and associations united in support of H.R. 4167.

N.G.A represents over 1,500 grocery retailer and wholesale companies across the nation. N.G.A. retail and wholesale members accounted for \$200 billion of U.S. grocery sales last year.

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N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: www.NationalGrocers.org.