

For Immediate Release

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NPPC Backs Uniform Food Safety Law

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 8, 2006 – The National Pork Producers Council today urged the U.S. House of Representatives to approve the National Uniformity for Food Act (H.R. 4167). The House is expected to vote on the bill today.

Introduced by Reps. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., and Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., the bill has strong bipartisan support; it has 225 cosponsors. The legislation will harmonize existing state and federal food safety laws to create a uniform system for all safety standards and warning labels, providing consumers with accurate, consistent information about food safety.

“This is important legislation that will give consumers even more confidence in the safety of the U.S. food supply,” said NPPC President Joy Philippi, a pork producer from Bruning, Neb. “It also allows food companies to meet one, uniform federal standard rather than a patchwork of 50 state rules and regulations.” NPPC is one of nearly 150 food companies and associations – the National Uniformity for Food Coalition – supporting H.R. 4167.

While the National Uniformity for Food Act would create a uniform, national system for food safety regulations and labeling laws, states would have the ability to petition the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to apply their safety standards nationally. In addition, state governments would retain their authority to enforce existing regulations for inspections and sanitation requirements as well as the ability to issue their own warnings.

Congress has long recognized the importance of setting nationally uniform food standards. It approved the National Labeling and Education Act of 1990, for example, to provide consumers with consistent nutrition information on all packaged foods and beverages. Other bills enacted to ensure uniform national food standards include the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Meat Inspection Act.

For more information, visit <http://www.uniformityforfood.org/default.htm>.

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The National Pork Producers Council is one of the nation’s largest livestock commodity organizations. It has producer members in 44 affiliated state associations and provides a unified voice for America’s pork producers on a wide range of industry and public policy issues. NPPC’s Web site is at www.nppc.org.