



NEVADA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Via Fax
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February 25, 2006

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
US House of Representatives
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gibbons:

The Nevada Manufacturers Association urges you to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 4167, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005." This legislation is likely to be brought to the House floor early next week, so we would truly appreciate a timely consideration of this request. The bill has the support of 227 bipartisan co-sponsors and was reported out by a bipartisan vote from the Energy and Commerce Committee on December 15, 2005.

H.R. 4167 amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in the areas of food safety tolerance setting and warning labeling, taking a measured, science based approach, to achieve national uniformity. The bill contains a method for the orderly review and harmonization of existing state food safety adulteration laws and warnings as they relate to Federal law. No existing state law would be preempted without this review and those state requirements under petition would stay in effect during that review. H.R. 4167 recognizes that it makes no sense to have a "patchwork quilt" of different states adopting different regulatory requirements on identical food products. National uniformity in food laws is actually the norm, not the exception. The Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Inspection Act, the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990, and the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 all regulate different aspects of food products. H.R. 4167 would complete the job most assume is already done by establishing national uniformity for food additives and warning labels. The Nevada food segment is small, but growing as companies seek our better business climate, so this will help Nevada companies.

This is common-sense piece of legislation will help consumers make educated decisions for themselves and their families in an ever-changing and currently confusing food labelling environment. Manufacturers will have a single standard, thus reducing costs and prices. Consumers and manufacturers deserve a single standard when it comes to food safety. This bill will allow states and the FDA to work collaboratively in establishing sound food safety policies that benefit rather than confuse everyone. We urge you to support and co-sponsor H.R. 4167. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Ray Bacon
Executive Director

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