

Protect the Citizens of Your State
Support A Real National Food Safety
System

March 6, 2006

Dear Colleague:

As we prepare to vote on H.R. 4167, it is important that we understand what the bill does and does not do. I introduced this legislation because it will ensure that we have a scientifically sound national policy for food safety.

For more than 100 years, the Congress has recognized that establishing food safety standards is a preeminent function of the federal government. Beginning with the Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1906, the Congress has repeatedly provided authority to the federal government to establish food safety standards that apply to food produced and sold in all fifty states. The role of the states in food safety has been principally to conduct inspections of food facilities in their states, primarily retail food establishments and restaurants. Food safety has not historically been the responsibility of the states.

Food is either safe or it is not. I find the notion that food can be safe in one state and the same food not safe when sold in an adjoining state makes no sense. Consumers are not aided by inconsistent, conflicting rules about the safety of the food supply. H.R. 4167 would preserve the role of the states to enforce food safety standards while ensuring that the same high, scientifically based standards are applied uniformly in all states.

Please join the bill's 226 bipartisan cosponsors by supporting this legislation when it is considered on the House floor this week. If you have any questions please Mike Ward in my office at 5-4872 or at mike.ward@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress