

## **GMA NEWS**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **GMA APPLAUDS SENATE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL UNIFORMITY FOR FOOD ACT**

**May 25, 2006, Washington, D.C.** – The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) today applauded Senators Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) for introducing “The National Uniformity for Food Act,” and called on the Senate to quickly consider and pass the legislation. The National Uniformity for Food Act provides for nationally uniform food safety standards and warning labels on packaged foods.

“We commend Senators Burr, Roberts and Nelson for their vision and foresight in introducing this important bill,” said C. Manly Molpus, president and CEO of the Grocery Manufacturers Association. “The National Uniformity for Food Act ensures the same level of protection for consumers no matter where they live, places our nation’s food safety in the hands of the world’s leading experts at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and preserves the appropriate role for states and the federal government when it comes to food safety.

“Consumers across the country deserve consistent information. Virtually every other piece of information regarding packaged food is uniform at the national level, including allergen labeling, nutrition information and pesticide tolerances. It is time we did the same for safety standards and warning labels, and we urge the Senate to quickly consider and pass this vital piece of legislation,” concluded Molpus.

Additionally, a recent ruling by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Robert Dondero bolsters the case for the National Uniformity for Food Act. Judge Dondero ruled against California’s Proposition 65 requirement that canned tuna display mercury warning labels. He upheld the FDA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decision that warning labels would do more harm than good and would be in conflict with the agencies’ decision to issue public advisories, rather than requiring warning labels.

H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act, passed the U.S. House of Representatives in March with the bipartisan support of 283 members.

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The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) represents the world’s leading branded food, beverage and consumer products companies. Since 1908, GMA has been an advocate for its members on public policy issues and has championed initiatives to increase industrywide productivity and growth. GMA member companies employ more than 2.5 million workers in all 50 states and account for more than \$680 billion in sales. The association is led by a board of member company chief executives. For more information, visit the GMA Web site at [www.gmabrands.com](http://www.gmabrands.com).