



National Grocers Association

February 28, 2006

The Honorable Mike Rogers
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rogers:

On behalf of the National Grocers Association (N.G.A.), I am writing to encourage you to support H.R. 4167, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005." This legislation is a top priority for retail and wholesale grocers as well as grocery manufacturers. The House is expected to take up the measure shortly and I urge you to vote for the bill.

H.R. 4167 is common-sense legislation that will help consumers make educated decisions in an ever-changing and currently confusing food labeling environment. The legislation will provide consumers with a single set of consistent, science-based food safety regulations for food products sold in all 50 states. H.R. 4167 will assure the efficient distribution of food in our nation.

A uniform national standard for food safety will enhance the efficiencies that allow the grocery industry to provide America's consumers with some of the safest and most affordable food in the world. Under our current system, 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.

The legislation would not impact state authority on traditional local food enforcement matters such as freshness dating, grade labeling, state inspection stamps and recalls.

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. N.G.A. retail and wholesale members accounted for \$200 billion of U.S. grocery sales last year.

Passage of H.R. 4167 will benefit America's consumers and retail and wholesale grocers. I urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Zaucha
President and CEO