



April 28, 2015

Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

We are writing on behalf of the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food about a significant development that could impact American consumers, businesses, farmers and food manufacturers. At a time when legislative consensus is hard to come by, it is notable that substantial bipartisan support is building behind a national, voluntary food labeling standard for products containing ingredients derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Representatives Mike Pompeo (R-KS) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) have introduced H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act — bipartisan legislation that will ensure food labeling in the United States is uniform and science-based. The March 25 bill introduction came one day after the House Committee on Agriculture held a hearing on the critical role of biotechnology in the advancement and sustainability of American farming.

Today interest groups across the country are pushing state-level labeling mandates that will exacerbate consumer confusion and drive up food prices. Instead of informing consumers, these state initiatives are filled with loopholes, exempting as much as two-thirds of foods. The result will be higher food prices for hard working American families – as much as \$500 a year for a family of four, according to a study by Cornell University Professor William Lesser<sup>1</sup>.

By putting a stop to the patchwork of state-based labeling requirements, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act will protect consumers from unpredictable price variations and protect farmers and food manufacturers from having to contend with inconsistent and costly regulations.

GMOs have been an important part of our nation's food supply for the past 20 years, and 70-80 percent of the foods people eat in the United States contain ingredients that have been genetically engineered. In addition, the leading health and regulatory bodies in the world, from the World Health Organization to the American Medical Association, have all concluded GMOs are safe.

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act will give consumers, farmers, and small businesses certainty. The proposed legislation also would improve clarity for foods carrying a GMO-free label and provide uniform rules by creating a national certification program for foods that have been produced without bioengineering.

We encourage you to consider cosponsoring H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act and support its adoption – and we would be pleased to talk with you or provide any information on this issue. We believe that it is imperative that Congress pass a bipartisan bill this year to ensure people across our nation continue to have access to consistent science-based standards for food labeling.

Sincerely,

AACC International  
AgriBank, FCB  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Agricultural Council of California  
Agricultural Retailers Association



AgriGrowth  
Agri-Mark, Inc.  
Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alabama Soybean and Corn Association  
Alaska Farm Bureau  
Amalgamated Sugar Company (ID, OR, WA)  
American Agri-Women  
American Bakers Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Crystal Sugar Company (MN, ND)  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers  
Coalition  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Ameriflax  
AMPI  
Arizona Beverage Association  
Arizona Cotton Growers Association  
Arizona Farm Bureau  
Arkansas Beverage Association  
Arkansas Farm Bureau  
Arkansas Seed Dealers Association  
Arkansas Soybean Association  
Associated Oregon Industries  
Barrel O' Fun Snack Foods  
BASF Corporation  
Bayer CropScience, LP  
Beet Sugar Development Foundation  
Better Made Snack Foods, Inc.  
Beverage Association of Tennessee  
Big Horn Basin Beet Growers (WY)  
Big Horn County Sugar Beet Growers (MT)  
BIOForward  
Bioscience Association of North Dakota  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Blue Diamond Growers

Bunge North America Inc.  
Calcot, Ltd.  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Beet Growers  
California Canning Peach Association  
California Farm Bureau  
California Grain & Feed Association  
California League of Food Processors  
California Seed Association  
California-Nevada Beverage Association  
Cargill Inc.  
Caudill Seed Company, Inc.  
Ceres Solutions, LLP  
Chemistry Council of New Jersey  
CHS Inc  
Co-Alliance LLP  
CoBank  
Colorado Association of Distributors  
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers  
Colorado Bioscience Association  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado Dairy Farmers  
Colorado Farm Bureau  
Colorado Potato Legislative Association  
Colorado Seed Industry Association  
Colorado Sugarbeet Growers  
Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey  
ConAgra Foods, Inc.  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Connecticut Bioscience Growth Council  
Cooperative Milk Producers Association  
Corn Growers Association of North Carolina  
Corn Producers Association of Texas  
Corn Refiners Association  
Council for Responsible Nutrition  
CropLife America  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Delaware Farm Bureau  
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association  
Dow AgroSciences  
DSM Nutritional Products  
DuPont  
Elwyhee Beet Growers (ID)



Empire State Potato Growers Inc. (NY)  
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association  
Exotic Wildlife Association  
Farmers Cooperative Creamery  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
First District Association  
Flavor & Extract Manufacturers Association  
Florida Beverage Association  
Florida Farm Bureau  
Florida Feed Association, Inc.  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association  
Florida Seed Association, Inc.  
Food Industry Alliance of New York State  
Foremost Farms USA  
Furmano's  
General Mills Inc.  
Georgia Beverage Association  
Georgia Cattlemen's Association  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
Georgia-Florida Soybean Association  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Global Harvest Initiative  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Great Plains Canola Association  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
GROWMARK, Inc  
Harvey County Farm Bureau  
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association  
Hoosier Beverage Association  
House-Autry Mills  
Idaho Eastern-Oregon Seed Association  
Idaho Farm Bureau  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Idaho Grower Shippers Association  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Idaho Soft Drink Association, Inc.  
Idaho Sugar Beet Growers  
Illinois Beverage Association  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Illinois Seed Trade Association  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Independent Bakers Association  
Independent Professional Seed Association  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Indiana Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Farm Bureau  
Indiana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association  
Indiana Seed Trade Association  
Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Infant Nutrition Council of America  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Franchise Association  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Farm Bureau  
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives  
Iowa Seed Association  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Beverage Association  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain & Feed Association  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Kellogg Company  
Kentucky Beverage Association  
Kentucky Farm Bureau  
Kentucky Life Science Council  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Kitchen Cooked, Inc.  
Kraft Foods Group, Inc.  
Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
LifeScience Alley  
Louisiana Farm Bureau  
Louisiana Soybean Association  
Maine Beverage Association  
Maine Potato Board  
Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Maryland Grain Producers Association



Massachusetts Beverage Association  
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council  
McCormick & Company Inc.  
MD/DC/DE Beverage Association  
MichBio  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Bean Commission  
Michigan Corn Growers Association  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Food and Beverage Association  
Michigan Manufacturers Association  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Soft Drink Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Michigan Sugar Company  
Mid Kansas Cooperative Association  
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association  
Midwest Food Processors Association  
Midwest Forage Association  
Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative (MN/ND)  
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council  
Minnesota Beverage Association  
Minnesota Canola Council  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
Minnesota Farm Bureau  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Mississippi Farm Bureau  
Mississippi Soybean Association  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
Missouri Beverage Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Mondelez International  
Monsanto Company  
Montana Beverage Association  
Montana Grain Growers Association  
Montana-Dakota Beet Growers (MT/ND)  
National Agricultural Aviation Association  
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain & Feed Association  
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Potato Council  
National Restaurant Association  
National Turkey Federation  
NEBCO Beet Growers (NE/CO)  
Nebraska Cooperative Council  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association  
Nebraska Dry Bean Commission  
Nebraska Farm Bureau  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
Nebraska Sugarbeet Growers  
Nevada Farm Bureau  
New England Biotech Association  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau  
New Mexico Farm Bureau  
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York State Agribusiness Association  
New York State Grange  
North American Millers Association  
North Carolina Beverage Association  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
North Carolina Farm Bureau  
North Carolina Potato Association  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association  
North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
North Dakota Farm Bureau Federation  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northharvest Bean Growers Association



Northeast Dairy Foods Association  
Northern Canola Growers Association  
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold, Inc.  
Northwest Food Processors Association  
Northwest Grocery Association  
Nyssa-Nampa Sugarbeet Growers (ID/OR)  
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau  
Ohio Manufacturers' Association  
Ohio Soft Drink Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, Inc  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Seed Trade Association  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oregon BioScience Association  
Oregon Cherry Growers, Inc.  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Oregon Feed and Grain Association  
Oregon Retail Council  
Oregon Seed Association  
Pacific Coast Producers  
Pacific Seed Association  
Pennsylvania Beverage Association  
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association  
PepsiCo, Inc.  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.  
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.  
Pretzels, Inc.  
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers (ND/MN)  
Retail Association of Nevada  
Retailers Association of Massachusetts  
Rhode Island Beverage Association  
Rhode Island Farm Bureau  
Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association  
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Rudolph Foods

Savor Seasonings, LLC  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
Shearer's Foods, LLC  
Sidney Sugars Incorporated (MT)  
Snack Food Association  
South Carolina Beverage Association  
South Carolina Farm Bureau  
South Carolina Soybean Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives  
South Dakota Farm Bureau  
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Dakota Wheat Growers  
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association  
Southeast Milk, Inc.  
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative  
Southern Montana Sugarbeet Growers  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association  
Southern States Cooperative  
St. Alban's Cooperative Creamery  
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association  
Tennessee Dairy Producers  
Tennessee Farm Bureau  
Tennessee Pork Producers Association  
Tennessee Poultry Association  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
Texas Poultry Federation  
Texas Seed Trade Association  
Texas Soybean Association  
Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association  
The Coca-Cola Company  
The Hershey Company  
The J.M. Smucker Company  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
Unilever  
United Dairywomen of Arizona  
United Egg Producers  
United Potato Growers of America



Utah Beverage Association  
Utah Food Industry Association  
Utah Retail Merchants Association  
Utz Quality Foods  
Vermont Farm Bureau  
Virginia Beverage Association  
Virginia Farm Bureau  
Virginia Soybean Association  
Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association  
Washington Farm Bureau  
Washington Friends of Farms & Forests  
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Welch Foods Inc.

West Virginia Farm Bureau  
Western Plant Health Association  
Western Sugar Cooperative (CO, MT, NE, WY)  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin Beverage Association  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce  
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association  
Wisconsin Soybean Association  
Wisconsin Technology Council  
Wise Foods  
Wyandot, Inc.  
Wyoming Sugar Company  
Wyoming Sugar Growers

###

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://dyson.cornell.edu/people/profiles/docs/LabelingNY.pdf>