



July 22, 2015

Support H.R 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act

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

On behalf of the nation's retailers and wholesalers of food and other grocery products and the companies that supply them, Food Marketing Institute (FMI)¹ and the National Grocers Association² (NGA) offer strong support for the *Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act* (H.R. 1599), sponsored by Reps. Pompeo and Butterfield and co-sponsored by more than 100 other members of Congress, when it is considered by the House of Representatives later this week.

FMI and NGA member companies and the consumers they serve need one national standard for items produced without genetic engineering, i.e., non-GMO food products, and it is essential that this national standard includes clear criteria and definitions.

It is also critical that the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture continue to serve as the nation's authorities for determining the regulations associated with consistent, accurate and appropriate labeling on food packaging and that this responsibility is not abdicated to any other governmental or non-governmental entities.

H.R. 1599 requires FDA to complete its work on developing a federal standard for the labeling of non-genetically engineered products. This federal standard would supersede actions by any and all other jurisdictions thereby avoiding the potential for a 50-state system of differing and conflicting GMO labeling laws that would confuse consumers and would be incredibly difficult for the industry to implement.

FMI and NGA encourage you to support H.R. 1599 when it is considered on the House floor this week.

Thank you,

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President and CEO
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Peter J. Larkin
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National Grocers Association

¹ Food Marketing Institute proudly advocates on behalf of the food retail industry. FMI's U.S. members operate nearly 40,000 retail food stores and 25,000 pharmacies, representing a combined annual sales volume of almost \$770 billion. FMI membership covers the spectrum of diverse venues where food is sold, including single owner grocery stores, large multi-store supermarket chains and mixed retail stores.

² The National Grocers Association (NGA) is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating a variety of formats. The independent grocery sector is accountable for close to 1 percent of the nation's overall economy and is responsible for generating \$131 billion in sales, nearly 1 million jobs, \$30 billion in wages, and \$27 billion in taxes.