



If you believe, belong.

July 21, 2015

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

On behalf of the more than 250,000 soybean farmers across the country, as well as the millions of workers along the food and farm supply chain of which we're an integral part, we write to you today to urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act, when it comes to the floor for a vote on Thursday. Every soybean farmer, and indeed every American whose job depends on agriculture, has a critical stake in this legislation, which would establish a national, voluntary food labeling standard for products containing ingredients derived from genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Special interest groups across the country continue to push a convoluted patchwork of 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 Cornell University study.

By putting a stop to the web 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.

H.R. 1599, 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.

On behalf of farmers in each of your states, I encourage you to vote "yes" on H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Cowan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Wade Cowan
President
American Soybean Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Censky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Steve Censky
Chief Executive Officer
American Soybean Association

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