



July 22, 2015

Honorable Members of the House of Representatives:

The Snack Food Association writes to offer strong support for H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act. H.R. 1599 creates a federal standard for GMO labeling that will eliminate confusion, advance food safety, and provide much-needed consistency for both food manufacturers and consumers. We commend Representatives Pompeo and Butterfield for introducing this legislation with significant bipartisan support.

SFA is the international trade association of the snack food industry representing more than 400 snack manufacturers and their suppliers. Our membership includes both large multi-category companies and small family-owned businesses in the second and third generation of management.

GMO labeling is one of the most critical issues facing our members today. Mandatory labeling at the state level would impact nearly every aspect of their businesses, requiring increased product inventory, new packaging and distribution processes, and extensive additional regulatory and training requirements. It would ultimately result in increased costs at the grocery store or less availability of products on store shelves for consumers.

Because SFA members do not manufacture, distribute, and sell in just one state, a patchwork of different state labeling laws would be incredibly complex to implement and would impede interstate commerce. Small, family-owned companies with just one plant or a single line of production would be hit the hardest.

H.R. 1599 will improve clarity and provide uniform rules by creating a national certification program for foods that have been produced without bioengineering and establishing a standard for the use of the term "natural" on food labels. And while we firmly believe the science shows that GMO products are safe, SFA members will continue to provide consumers with non-GMO options in the marketplace.

SFA encourages a "Yes" vote on H.R. 1599 as amended and reported by the House Agriculture Committee. This commonsense legislation is much needed to ensure our food labels are based on consistent, national standards driven by science.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Dempsey, Jr.
President & CEO