

August 16, 2006

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee
379A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Enzi:

The American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) was founded in 1907 and represents the interests of the spice industry around the world, specifically as it relates to trade in the United States. ASTA's membership is made up of almost 200 companies that manufacture, import, export, distribute, purchase and supply services to the spice and seasoning industry.

I am writing to express our support for S. 3128, the "National Uniformity for Food Act of 2006." As you know, Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Pat Roberts (R-KA), and Ben Nelson (D-NE) introduced the legislation on May 25, 2006 and on July 27, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee completed a hearing on the bill. The House passed its bill (H.R. 4167) with a strong bipartisan vote of 283-139.

The legislation provides for science-based uniform food safety standards and warning requirements so that Americans in every state are protected equally. It is common-sense legislation that will help consumers make educated decisions for themselves and their families in an ever-changing and confusing food labeling environment. Consumers deserve a single standard when it comes to food safety, and this bill will allow states and the FDA to work collaboratively in establishing sound food safety policies that benefit - not confuse - consumers.

The "National Uniformity for Food Act" is a top priority for ASTA. It makes no sense to have different states adopting different regulatory requirements for identical food products. This legislation will instead provide consumers with a single set of consistent, science-based food safety regulations for food products sold in all 50 states.

Successful passage of the "National Uniformity for Food Act" is very important to the 200 member companies of ASTA. We urge you to make its passage a top priority.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Deem
Executive Director