

Legislative Overview

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Government Relations Director

2009 ASTA Legislative/Regulatory Meeting



Goals for ASTA's Regulatory/Legislative Program

- Increase ASTA's impact on legislation and regulations
- Provide timely and pertinent public policy information to ASTA members so they can comply with new laws and prepare for future laws and regulations.



Legislative and Regulatory Resources for Members

- www.astaspice.org
- ASTA's legislative/regulatory newsletter: ASTA Advocate
- Regulatory/Legislative Workshop
- Government Relations Director
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- Government Relations Committee



Increase ASTA's Influence

- Work with other organizations that share the same position on an issue -
 - GMA Food Safety Coalition
 - Alliance for a Stronger FDA
- Develop strong relationships with policy makers at federal agencies and on Capitol Hill.
- Communicate ASTA's position to decision makers via letters to Capitol Hill, submit comments to agencies and at congressional hearings, meet with decision makers.
- Result: ASTA's position will be considered when regulatory/legislative policy is developed and policy makers have more insight into our industry.



Food Safety Bills - House

- **The House of Representatives passed a food safety bill in July**
- **ASTA supports several provisions in the bill**
- **Some provisions are problematic including:**
 - **Traceability**
 - **Country of origin labeling**
 - **Positive lab results to FDA**
 - **Administrative detention authority expansion**



Food Safety Bills- Senate

- The Senate has not yet passed a food safety bill, but one has been introduced
- Overall, ASTA prefers the Senate bill
- Once the Senate passes a bill, the House and Senate must get together and work out a compromise



ASTA Government Relations Committee

Tim Sonntag, Chair
Wixon, Inc.

Anna Reager
The C.F. Sauer Company

Susan Brown
McCormick & Company

Randy Ritchie
ConAgra Food Ingredients

Kirk Bewley
Culinary Farms, Inc.

Manoj Ruparelia
Mincing Overseas Spice Company

John Doisy
Sensient Dehydrated Flavors

Whitney Sayia
A.A. Sayia & Co., Inc.

Ron Elton
John H. Elton, Inc.

Floyd Stone
Griffith Laboratories

Dennis Kolsun
H.J. Heinz, Inc.

Julia Bellinger
ASTA

Vinayak Narain
Olam Americas Inc. (Key Food Ingredients)



GR Committee Accomplishments

- Instituted regular meetings on Capitol Hill with congressional staff during every Committee meeting.
- Formulated ASTA positions for Board approval on food safety legislation.
- Help develop advocacy strategy for key issues.
- Help develop letters and comments to send to policy makers.



Example of Effective Coalition Advocacy

- The Food Safety Coalition worked with Congress to:
 - Lower food facility registration fees from \$1000. per facility down to \$500
 - Modify traceability provision by requiring a pilot project and assessing the availability and feasibility of tracing technologies
 - Less prescriptive food safety plans

