



November 27, 2018

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
United States House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support and cosponsor the Accurate Labels Act (H.R. 6022), introduced by Representatives Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and cosponsored by: Representatives Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Collin Peterson, (D-MN), Buddy Carter (R-GA), Filemon Vela (D-TX), Richard Hudson (R-NC), Jim Costa, (D-CA), Andy Harris (R-MD), Sanford Bishop (D-GA), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX).

American consumers have a right to clear, accurate and meaningful information about the products they buy. Our respective industries are committed to providing meaningful transparency to consumers. The Accurate Labels Act would establish a risk-based federal standard for labeling and ingredient disclosure requirements that is substantiated by sound science. This bipartisan legislation is necessary to provide consumers with clarity amidst a confusing patchwork of state and local labeling and disclosure laws.

Unfortunately, states and localities have implemented or are considering dozens of ingredient disclosure and warning label requirements related to food and agriculture and other consumer products that are often based on limited or insufficient information. For example, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently blocked a 2015 San Francisco ordinance that requires advertisers of sugar-sweetened beverages to post health warnings, arguing that the warning conflicts with statements by the Food and Drug Administration. Despite this ruling, similar proposals have been introduced in Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and Baltimore, Maryland. Legislation has also been introduced in other states that would impose additional labeling and disclosure requirements on a variety of products, from multivitamins to cosmetics.

Now is the time to establish a federal, science-based solution. State- and locally-mandated labeling schemes that require unjustified warnings damage consumer confidence, hinder interstate commerce, and often disparage new science and technology.

This important issue needs a timely solution before a patchwork of labeling laws causes additional burdens for Mississippi farmers, small businesses, retailers and manufacturers. On behalf of a coalition representing over 80 national trade associations, we urge you to support and cosponsor the Accurate Labels Act to ensure that consumers have appropriate, meaningful information based on a credible, scientific standard when making purchasing decisions.

Sincerely yours,

American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association

American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
Auto Care Association
Consumer Technology Association
EPS Industry Alliance
Food Marketing Institute
Foodservice Packaging Institute
Frozen Potato Products Institute
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Independent Bakers Association
International Bottled Water Association
Juice Products Association
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Milk Producers Federation
Natural Products Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Plastics Industry Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association
SPRI, Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Fresh Produce Association
Western Growers Association