

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S. 230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S. 221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Over 700 Groups Oppose Legislation That Would Deny Consumers the Right to Know

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid and Members of the Senate:

Over the past year, more than 700 organizations, farming and fishing groups, and food companies, representing tens of millions of members and customers across the country, have written to Congress to strongly oppose legislation that would prohibit states from labeling genetically engineered foods.

The bill that Senator Roberts brought to the Senate Floor, the latest version of S. 2609 (amendment #3450 to S. 764) would not only pre-empt states from requiring labeling of GMO foods, but would create an inadequate voluntarily program to disclose the presence of GMOs through websites, phone numbers or QR codes and fails to give consumers the information they want to see on packages about the foods they are buying and feeding their families.

Nine out of ten American consumers consistently report they want the right to know what's in their food and how it's grown through labeling of genetically engineered foods — a right already held by consumers in 64 countries. Yet some food companies continue to push for legislation that would preempt state laws that require disclosure of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food.

On behalf of the many hundreds of groups and food companies that support the consumer's right to know, we urge the Senate to oppose the latest version of S. 2609 (amendment #3450 to S. 764). Please find attached the previous letters sent to Congress on this issue.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kimbrell
Executive Director
Center for Food Safety

Scott Faber
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group

Thomas Gremillion
Director of Food Policy
Consumer Federation of America

Marty Hayden
Vice President of Policy & Legislation
Earthjustice

Jean Halloran
Director of Food Policy Initiatives
Consumers Union

Wenonah Hauter
Executive Director
Food & Water Watch

Erich Pica
President
Friends of the Earth

Gary Hirshberg
Chairman
Just Label It

Sara Chieffo
Vice President, Government Affairs
League of Conservation Voters

Ferd Hoefner
Policy Director
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Erik D. Olson
Director, Health & Environment Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Melinda Pierce
Legislative Director
Sierra Club

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Committee

Re: No DARK Act Policy Rider in the Upcoming Omnibus Appropriations Bill

On behalf of more than 290 organizations, farming and fishing groups, and food companies, representing tens of millions of members and customers across the country, we write to strongly oppose the inclusion of any policy rider in the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill that would deny consumers the right to know what it is in their food and how it is grown.

Nine out of ten American consumers consistently report they want the right to know what's in their food and how it's grown — a right already held by consumers in 64 countries. Yet some Members of Congress want to include a policy rider in the upcoming omnibus bill that would preempt state laws that require disclosure of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food.

There is no room for ideological policy riders like this in the omnibus appropriations bill and we urge you to oppose any such efforts.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kimbrell
Executive Director
Center for Food Safety

Lynn Thorp
National Campaigns Director
Clean Water Action

Thomas Gremillion
Director of Food Policy
Consumer Federation of America

Jean Halloran
Director of Food Policy Initiatives
Consumers Union

Marty Hayden
Vice President of Policy & Legislation
Earthjustice

Scott Faber
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group

Wenonah Hauter
Executive Director
Food & Water Watch

Erich Pica
President
Friends of the Earth

Rick Hind
Legislative Director
Greenpeace

Gary Hirshberg
Chairman
Just Label It

Sara Chieffo
Vice President, Government Affairs
League of Conservation Voters

Ferd Hoefner
Policy Director
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Erik D. Olson
Director, Health & Environment Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Robert Weissman
President
Public Citizen

Melinda Pierce
Legislative Director
Sierra Club

350NJ
Abundance
ACEDC
Action Aid USA

Activate CT
Adult and Family, PC
Advocates for Justice
AIMA of Nashua, PLLC
Alaska Trollors Association
All Pets Go to Heaven
AllergyKids Foundation
Alliance for Democracy
Alliance for Natural Health USA
Alliance for Sustainability
American Anti-Vivisection Society
American Association for Justice
American Grassfed Association
American Lung Association in California
American Sustainable Business Council
Amy's Kitchen
Animal Rights Activists of New Jersey
Arizay
As You Sow
Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers Union
Be the Change
Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
Berks Gas Truth
Beyond Pesticides
Beyond Toxics
Breast Cancer Fund
Brooklyn Bridge CSA
Burlington County Young Democrats
Bus for Progress
Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE)
CA Proposition 37
California Organics
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
CATA (The Farmworker Support Committee)
Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center
Center for a Livable Future
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Environmental Transformation
Center for Food Safety
Center for Media and Democracy
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Church Women in New York State
Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes
Citizens for GMO Labeling
City Rising Farm
Clean Water Action
Clif Bar & Company

Coastal Monmouth Democratic Club
Coastal Trollers Association
Community Alliance for Global Justice
Community Farm Alliance
Community to Community Development
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
ConnFACT
Consumer Federation of America
Consumers Union
Cornucopia Institute
Council for Responsible Genetics
Dakota Resource Council
Dakota Rural Action
Des Moines County Farmers and Neighbors for Optimal Health
Dignity Health
Earth Open Source
Earthjustice
Eco-Justice Ministries
Ecological Farming Association
Ecumenical Eco Justice Network
Environment America
Environmental Working Group
Experimental Farm Network
Fair World Project
Falcon Trading Company, Inc
Family Farm & Crop Advisory Business
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Aid
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Farm Sanctuary
Farmer-Veteran Coalition
Farms Not Arms
Farmworker Association of Florida
Farmworker Self-Help
Fay-Penn Economic Development Council
Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Food & Water Watch
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food Democracy Now!
Food Facts
Food First
Food for Maine's Future
Food Policy Action
Foodshed Alliance
Franciscan Response to Fracking
Friends of Atascadero Wetlands
Friends of Family Farmers
Friends of the Earth US

Gap Mountain Goats
Global Justice Ecology Project
Global Organics, Ltd.
GMO Free Arizona
GMO Free Connecticut
GMO Free Florida
GMO Free Maryland
GMO Free Nevada
GMO Free Nevada, Las Vegas Chapter
GMO Free New Jersey
GMO Free New Mexico
GMO Free NY
GMO Free NJ
GMO-Free PA
GMO Free Rockingham County, NC
GMO Free San Juans
GMO Free USA
Go Wild Campaign
Grassroots Action Network
Green Across the World, Inc.
Green America
Green Chicago Restaurant Coalition
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Environmental Coalition
Green Party of Monmouth County
Greenpeace
Harmony Starts
HOPE Farmers Market
HUB SOMA
Illinois Right to Know GMO
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Responsible Technology
Institute for Social Ecology
Integrative Mental Health for You
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Iowa Farmers Union
Iowa Organic Association
Iowa right to know
Just Food
Just Label It
Label GMO Nevada
Label GMOs Sonoma County
Label In WNY
Label the Truth Ohio
LabelGMOs.org
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy
League of Conservation Voters

League of Independent Voters of Texas
Liberty Prairie Foundation
Link Up for Health
Local Food Rules
Lundberg Family Farms
MA Right to Know GMOs
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Mangrove Action Project
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region, USA
Michigan Land Trustees
Midwest Environmental Justice Organization
Moms Across America
Moms Across America of the CA State Grange
MOMS Advocating Sustainability
Monadnock Buy Local
Mothering Mother
MoveOn.org Civic Action
National Black Farmers Association
National Co+op Grocers
National Family Farm Coalition
National Hmong American Farmers Inc
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Assn.
National Organic Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Natural Grocers
Nature's Path
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
New England Farmers Union
NH Live GMO Free or Die
NH Right to Know GMO
NJ PDA
NJ State Industrial Union Council
NoGMO4Michigan
Non-GMO Project
North Jersey Pipeline Walkers
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association – Connecticut
Northeast Organic Farming Association – Interstate Council
Northeast Organic Farming Association – Massachusetts
Northeast Organic Farming Association – New Hampshire
Northeast Organic Farming Association – New Jersey
Northeast Organic Farming Association – New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association – Vermont
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Northern NJ Chapter of National Organization for Women
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides

Nourishing Ways of West MI
NYPIRG
Occupy Hingham
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio Farmers Union
One Fish Foundation
Oregon Right to Know
Oregon Rural Action
Oregon Tilth
Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families
Organic Consumers Association
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Seed Alliance
Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association
Organic Trade Association
Organic Valley | CROPP Cooperative
Other Worlds
Our Family Farm Coalition
PeaceRoots Alliance
PCC Natural Markets
Pesticide Action Network North America
Planting Seeds of HOPE
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Presence Marketing
Progress Now New Mexico
Progress Ohio
Quest
Rainforest Relief
Raritan Headwaters Association
Right to Know Colorado
Right to Know Minnesota
Right to Know RI
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rodale Institute
Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA
Rural Coalition
Rural Vermont
Sacramento Community Grange
Safe Water Society
Sierra Club
Skylands Group, NJ Sierra Club
Slow Food Bluegrass
Slow Food California
Slow Food Northern NJ
Slow Food Santa Cruz
Slow Food USA
Small Planet Institute

Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Soil Generation
Sojourns Community Clinic
South Jersey Organic Garden Club
St. Mary's Advocates for Justice
St. Mary's Franciscan Parish, Pompton Lakes
St. Mary's Urban Farm
Sustainable Business Alliance
Sustainable Food Center
Sustainable Food Trade Association
Sustainable Greenville
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club
TexPIRG
The Acequia Institute
The Organic & Non-GMO Report
The Oregon Bus Project
Three Twins Ice Cream
Tilth Producers of Washington
Toxic Free NC
Transition Newton & Northwest NJ
U.S. PIRG
U.S. Right to Know
Uncle Matts
United Methodist Caretakers of God's Creation
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA)
Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Vermont Right to Know GMOs
VT Right to Know GMOs Coalition
Washington Biotechnology Action Council
Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network
West Michigan Paelo/Primal Tribe
Western Colorado Congress
Western New York Peace Center
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice
Women, Food and Agriculture Network

July 24, 2015

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 346 undersigned farm, food, health, public interest and environmental organizations and businesses, we respectfully request that you do not support HR 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act sponsored by Representative Pompeo (R-KS) if a Senate version of this bill is introduced. By making voluntary labeling for genetically engineered (GMO) foods the national standard, this bill would enshrine in federal law a failed policy that has kept consumers in the dark about what they are eating for two decades. The bill would also allow GMOs to be misleadingly labeled as “natural.” But most importantly, this bill would strip away consumers’ right to know by preempting state efforts to require labeling of GMO foods.

HR 1599 rests on the false tenet that there is a broad scientific consensus that GMO foods are safe.ⁱ The undersigned organizations contend that this is not the case since the approval process relies on studies conducted by the companies seeking to sell new GMO crops, rather than on any independent review. Simply making the current voluntary review system mandatory, as HR 1599 would, does nothing to address the inadequacy of the pre-market review system.

The bill relies on a system of voluntary labeling, despite the fact that for over a decade the FDA has allowed companies to voluntarily label GMO foods and none have chosen to do so.

Americans want mandatory labeling of GMO foods. A 2013 *New York Times* poll found that 93 percent of respondents were in favor of a mandatory label for genetically engineered food.ⁱⁱ Since the Food and Drug Administration has failed to respond to the more than a million Americans who have asked the agency to label GMOs, the momentum on this issue has shifted to the states. Since 2013, over 25 states have introduced legislation to label GMO foods, and these bills have passed in Connecticut, Maine and Vermont.ⁱⁱⁱ

Mandatory labeling of GMOs is not a novel idea. Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and Saudi Arabia are among at least 60 countries that require some labeling on GMO foods.^{iv} Nor is mandatory labeling an expensive proposition for the United States. A study commissioned by Consumers Union reviewed research on mandatory GMO labeling and estimated that the median cost of labeling per person per year is \$2.30,^v less than a penny a day.

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) is responsible for this bill as well as other efforts to remove transparency from food labels. This trade organization represents the world’s biggest food and beverage companies as well as agribusinesses like Monsanto, Dow AgroSciences and Syngenta.^{vi} In 2013 alone, the GMA spent \$14.3 million lobbying against country-of-origin labeling, GMO labeling, any regulation of food marketing to children and other regulations affecting the food and beverage industry.^{vii} The GMA and its member companies have poured over \$80 million into political action committees to help block GMO labeling ballot initiatives in California, Washington, Oregon and Colorado over the past three years.^{viii} The passage of HR 1599 would ensure that the GMA and its member companies

continue to profit by denying consumers basic information about how the food they feed their families is produced.

This bill unfairly jeopardizes the existing rights of states and would undermine the efforts of the thousands of people working to create basic transparency in food labels in their states. We urge you to deny support for HR 1599, a bill that would quash the democratic process and keep constituents in the dark about how their food was produced.

Instead, we urge you to support SB 511, introduced by Senator Boxer (D-CA), which would balance the needs of companies for a single labeling standard with the overwhelming demand by consumers for the mandatory labeling of GMOs in food.

If you have any questions or need more information on this issue, please contact Patty Lovera at Food & Water Watch at (202) 683-2465.

Sincerely,

National:

Alliance for Natural Health USA
American Anti-Vivisection Society
Arizay
CATA (The Farmworker Support Committee)
Center for Food Safety
Citizens for GMO Labeling
Consumer Federation of America
Earth Open Source
Environmental Working Group
Experimental Farm Network
Fair World Project
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Aid
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Farm Sanctuary
Food & Water Watch
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food Democracy Now!
Friends of the Earth U.S.
GMO Free USA
Green America
Moms Across America
MoveOn.org Civic Action
National Family Farm Coalition
National Hmong American Farmers, Inc.
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Natural Grocers
Nature's Path Foods Inc.
New England Farmers Union

Non-GMO Project
Northeast Organic Farming Association -
Interstate Council
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working
Group
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Mangrove Action Project
Organic Consumers Association
Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association
PeaceRoots Alliance
Pesticide Action Network North America
Presence Marketing
Rainforest Relief
Rural Advancement Foundation International
Slow Food USA
Socially Responsible Agricultural Project
U.S. Right to Know
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Women, Food and Agriculture Network

Arizona:

AZ Extreme Clean, LLC
GMO Free Arizona

California:

Awake at Work
Be The Change
Bodywise Pilates Studio
CA Proposition 37

Daily Digital Imaging
Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps
Earth Source Organics
Ecobutterfly Organics
Ecological Farming Association
Farms Not Arms
Four Seasons Ag Consulting
Frey Vineyards, Ltd.
Friends of Atascadero Wetlands
Good Earth
Label GMOs Sonoma County
Labelgmos.org- California's Grassroots
Lundberg Family Farms
Moms Across America of the CA State Grange
MOMS Advocating Sustainability
Nepalese Paper
New Earth Resources
Other Worlds
Peaceroots Alliance
Quest
Riverdance Farms
Sacramento Community Grange
Slow Food California
Slow Food Santa Cruz
Stephanie Webb Consulting
The Healing Spiral
True Nourishment
Windheim EMF Solutions

Colorado:

350 Ft. Collins
Be The Change – USA
Beehive Chocolates
Boulder Brands
Boulder City Council
Citizens for a Healthy Ft. Collins
Colorado Spring City Council
Colorado Springs Public Market
Earth and Sky Architecture
Earthly Ideas LLLC
Eco-Justice Ministries
Eco-Officiency
Ela Family Farms
Ethical Eating Task Force
Hope Farm
Indian Ridge Farm

MM Local
Mo' Betta Green MarketPlace
MyTherapyCompany, LLC
R & B's Mo' Betta Green Marketplace
Right to Know Colorado
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
The Fort Collins Food Co-Operative
The Kitchen Cafe, LLC
The North Fork LLC
Thistle Whistle Farm
Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA)
Western Colorado Congress
Zeal - food for enthusiasts

Connecticut:

Activate CT
ConnFACT
GMO Free CT

Delaware:

Harvest Market Natural Foods

Florida:

Broward County Democratic Black Caucus
Ecology Party of Florida
Farmworker Association of Florida
Farmworker Self-Help
Global Organic
GMO Free Florida
Interfaith Justice League
Miramar Democratic Club
Nature's Food Patch
Pink Horizons Skin Care
The Relationship Institute
Treehugger Organic Farms
Whole Hearted Parenting
YAYA-NFWM

Illinois:

Brackett Farm
Green Chicago Restaurant Coalition
Illinois Right to Know GMO
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
KYF Chicago
PrairieErth Farm

Seven Sisters Farm

Iowa:

Bloom and Bark Farm, LLC
Des Moines County Farmers and Neighbors
for Optimal Health
Dallas County Farmers and Neighbors
Dubuque Food Coop
Family Farm & Crop Advisory Business
FarmTable Delivery
Green Dubuque
H. H. Beck Century Farm
Institute for Responsible Technology
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Iowa Farmers Union
Iowa Organic Association
Iowa right to know
New Family Farm
New Pioneer Food Co-op
Pin Oak Place
Steamy Wonder Spa Company
The Organic & Non-GMO Report
Tim Blair MD, PLLC
Ulgan's Fields, LLLP

Kentucky:

Rainbow Blossom Natural Food Markets
Slow Food Bluegrass

Maine:

Food for Maine's Future
Kim's Farm
Local Food Rules
One Fish Foundation

Maryland:

Bear Haven Farm
CEM Design
Delish Dish
GMOfree MARYLAND
Zosimos Botanicals LLC

Massachusetts:

Berkshire Organics
Chicopee Center Chiropractic
Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company

MA Right to Know GMOs
Natural Awakenings Boston
New Life Design
Northeast Organic Farming Association of
Mass., Inc.
Occupy Hingham
Real Pickles
The Green Dad

Michigan:

Michigan Land Trustees
GCC Organics
NoGMO4Michigan
Nourishing Ways of West MI
West Michigan Paleo/Primal Tribe

Minnesota:

CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS LLC
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Purple Prairie
Right to Know Minnesota

Mississippi:

Computer Co-op
Fair Trade Green
Rainbow Natural Grocery Cooperative
Right to Know GMO- Mississippi

Montana:

Hermans Eco Inc.
Organic Seed Alliance
Sustainable Living Systems

Nebraska:

Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society

Nevada:

GMO Free Nevada
GMO Free Nevada, Las Vegas Chapter
Grassroots Action Network
Housekeeping Secrets
Label GMO Nevada

New Hampshire:

AIMA of Nashua, PLLC
Applied Solar Technologies

Breakwind Farm
Chimney Crickett
Gap Mountain Goats
HomeFree, LLC
Hungry Bear Farm
Las Olas Taqueria
Monadnock Food Co-op
New Earth Organic Farm
NH Live GMO Free or Die
NH Right To Know GMO
Nourishing Wellness
stonegate farm and flowers
Templeton Family Organics
The Counseling Studio
The Wellness Corner
Wise Way Wellness Center

New Jersey:

350NJ
A Healthier You
Advocates for Justice
Animal Rights Activists of New Jersey
Barbara Wilson Registered Dietitian LLC
Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
Burlington County Young Democrats
Bus For Progress
Center for Environmental Transformation
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes
Coastal Monmouth Democratic Club
Community Green
Deans Natural Food Markets
DO Health & Wellness
Earthsources
Eat Well, Live Well
Espressit Coffee Shop
Foodshed Alliance
Franciscan Response to Fracking
Genesis Farm
GMO Free NJ
Green Party of Monmouth County
Harmony Starts
Jane's Kitchen
Mountain Lakes Organic Co-op
NJ PDA
NJ State Industrial Union Council

Northern NJ Chapter of National Organization
for Women
Northjersey Pipeline Walkers
Nourishing Ways Nutrition and Learning
Center, LLC.
Nutrition Prescription LLC
On The Go Cafe' LLC
Our yards farm
Planting Seeds of HOPE
Ramsey Farmers Market
Raritan Headwaters Association
SKC Group LLC
Skylands Group, NJ Sierra Club
Slow Food Northern NJ
South Jersey Fair Trade Alliance
South Jersey Organic Garden Club
St. Mary's Advocates for Justice
St. Mary's Franciscan Parish, Pompton Lakes
Stonybrook Meadows
Sunshine Interiorscapes
T and F drugs
The Great Full Garden
Transition Newton & Northwest NJ
Weehawken Food Co-op
Whole Earth Center
Wilk Benefits Consulting, LLC

New Mexico:

Camino de Paz School & Farm
GMO-Free New Mexico
La Montanita Coop
Mixing Bowl Kitchen
ProgressNow New Mexico

New York:

Brooklyn Bridge CSA
Church Women United in New York State
GMO Free NY
Green Education and Legal Fund
Just Food
Label It WNY
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education &
Policy
Moosewood, Inc.
Mothering Mother
New York Design Studio

Northeast Organic Farming Association of
New York
NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research
Group)
Re-Nature Consulting
St. Mary's Urban Farm
Swing Hair Salon
Understory Farm
Western New York Peace Center
Whole Green And Healthy Integrative
Wellness

North Carolina:

Abundance NC
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
GMO-Free Rockingham County, NC
Green Bean Counters, LLC
The Change Creation, Inc.
Toxic Free NC

North Dakota:

Dakota Resource Council

Ohio:

All Things Food
City Rising Farm
Green Environmental Coalition
Label the Truth Ohio
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio Farmers Union
Progress Ohio
Snowville Creamery
Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice

Oregon:

Alliance for Democracy - Oregon

Beyond Toxics
Casa Verde CSA
Center for Biological Diversity
Friends of Family Farmers
Garuda Intl. LLC
Northwest Center for Alternatives to
Pesticides
Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families
Oregon Right to Know
Our Family Farms Coalition
Phillips Family Farm
Roots Realty
Sympatico Clothing
The Oregon Bus Project

Pennsylvania:

Berks Gas Truth
Freshlife
GMO Free PA
Safe Water Society
Small Valley Milling

Rhode Island:

Perfect Supplements

South Dakota:

Dakota Rural Action

Tennessee:

Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Texas:

Green Gate Farms
HOPE Farmers Market
Laughing Frog Farm
League of Independent Voters of Texas
Sustainable Food Center

ⁱ "No scientific consensus on GMO safety." Environmental Sciences Europe. January 24, 2015. <http://www.enveurope.com/content/27/1/4/abstract>.

ⁱⁱ Kopicki, Allison. "Strong Support for Labeling Modified Foods." *New York Times*. July 27, 2013.

ⁱⁱⁱ Senauer, Benjamin. University of Minnesota, Food Policy Research Center. "Considering the Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Engineered (GE) Foods in the U.S." Issue Brief. August 2013 at 1; Durkin, Alanna. "Maine advances genetically modified food labels." *Businessweek*. June 12, 2013; National Cotton Council. "Connecticut approves labeling GE foods." June 10, 2013; Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. "Gov. Peter Shumlin Signs First-in-the-Nation Genetically Engineered Foods Labeling Law." [Press Release] May 8, 2014. <http://governor.vermont.gov/newsroom-gmo-bill-signing-release>.

^{iv} U.S. Trade Representative. "2011 Report on Technical Barriers to Trade." 2011 at 49; Center for Food Safety. "Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Laws." Accessed September 5, 2013. <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/ge-map/>.

^v Dyke, Andrew and Robert Whelan. "GE Foods Labeling Cost Study Findings." ECONorthwest Report prepared for Consumers Union. September 12, 2014.

^{vi} GMA. Member Directory. July 2013

^{vii} Food & Water Watch analysis of GMA Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, Lobbying Reports from 2013. Available at Center for Responsive Politics. www.opensecrets.org. Includes GMA's own filings and hired lobbying firm filings.

^{viii} Food & Water Watch analysis of campaign data from Behrsin, Pamela. "Data Release: Failed CA Prop. 37 (GMO Labeling) – Funding Profile." Maplight.org. March 9, 2013; Washington State Public Disclosure Commission. Campaign Finance Database. Accessed January 2014; Colorado Secretary of State TRACER Database. No on 105 Political Action Committee Contributions. Accessed January 2015; Oregon Secretary of State. Campaign Finance-No on 92 Political Action Committee Contributions. Accessed January 2015.

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Committee

125 CEOs Oppose Bill That Would Deny Consumers the Right to Know

Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

On July 20th, 2015, 125 CEOs wrote to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose the DARK Act, which would deny Americans the right to know whether their food contains genetically modified ingredients.

On behalf of more than 125 CEOs, representing millions of customers across the country, I write to strongly oppose draft legislation released on February 19, 2016 that would similarly deny consumers the right to know what it is in their food and how it is grown.

Nine out of ten American consumers consistently report they want the right to know what's in their food and how it's grown — a right already held by consumers in 64 countries. Yet some food companies continue to push for legislation that would preempt state laws that require disclosure of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food.

The Chairman's Mark, as drafted, would not only preempt states from requiring labeling of GMO foods, it would strip FDA of its jurisdiction over GMO food labeling, make it harder for companies like Campbell's Soup to voluntarily disclose the presence of GMOs and continue to leave consumers in the dark about the foods they are buying and feeding their families.

Therefore, I urge the Senate Agriculture Committee to support the consumer's right to know and oppose the Chairman's Mark.

Sincerely,



Gary Hirshberg,
Chairman Stonyfield Farm
Chairman, Just Label It

July 20, 2015

Dear Representative:

We urge you to oppose H.R. 1599, which would deny Americans the right to know whether their food contains genetically modified food ingredients.

National polls show that nine out of ten Americans want the right know if their food contains GMOs. Regardless of age, income, education level or even party affiliation, Americans want the right to know what is in their food and how it was produced – the same right held by citizens in 64 other nations.

As business leaders, we hope that you will reject H.R. 1599 and instead require food companies to label products that contain GMOs.

If enacted, H.R. 1599 would limit the FDA's ability to create a national GMO labeling system, weaken our broken voluntary labeling system, and block state initiatives to give citizens this basic information about their food.

Congress has long recognized that Americans should be given basic information about their food and trusted to make the right choices for their families.

We urge you to honor this longstanding tradition and to reject H.R. 1599.

Sincerely,

Andrew Abraham, Founder and CEO, Orgain Inc., CA
José Andrés, Chef and Founder, Think Food Group, DC
Summer Auerbach, Second Generation Owner, Rainbow Blossom Natural Food Markets, KY
Dan Barber, Chef/Co-Owner, Blue Hill at Stone Barns, NY
Brandon Barnholt, President and CEO, KeHE Distributors LLC, IL
Fedele Bauccio, CEO, Bon Appétit Management, CA
Rick Bayless, Chef/Owner, Frontera Grill, IL
Andy and Rachel Berliner, Co-Founders, Amy's Kitchen, CA
Trudy Bialic, Director, Public Affairs, PCC Natural Markets, WA
Mitch Blumenthal, Founder, Global Organic Specialty Source Inc., FL
Marco Borges, CEO, 22 Days Nutrition, FL
Doug Brent, CEO, Made in Nature LLC, CO
Clifford Brett Jr., CEO/Owner, Kimberton Whole Foods, PA
Peter and Janie Brodhead, Owners, Brighter Day Natural Foods Market, GA
David Bronner, CEO, Dr. Bronner's Inc., CA
Michael Bronner, Founder and Chairman, UNREAL Inc., MA
Jonas Buehl, Owner, The Crunchy Grocer, CO
Jon Cadoux, Founder/CEO, Peak Organic Brewing Company, ME
Yvonne Chamberlain, Owner, The Market @ Tree of Life Center, TN
Kevin Cleary, CEO, Clif Bar & Company, CA
Morty Cohen, CEO, Falcon Trading Company, CA
Tom Colicchio, CEO, Craft Hospitality, NY
Kerry Collins, CEO, Applegate Inc., NJ
Kit Crawford, Co-Owner, Clif Bar & Company, CA
Nicole Dawes, President, COO, Late July Organics, MA

Joel Dee, President, Edward & Sons Trading Company, CA
Valerie Deptula, President, The Good Earth Natural Foods Co., MD
Steve Diakowsky, President and CEO, Taste of Nature Foods Inc., CA
Norman Dill, Owner/President, Rebecca's Natural Food, VA
Adnan Durrani, CEO, Saffron Road Inc., CT
Steve Ells, Chairman and CEO, Chipotle, CO
Shane Emmett, CEO, Health Warrior, VA
Gary Erickson, Co-Owner and Founder, Clif Bar & Company, CA
Susie Farbin, Co-Owner, Mama Jean's Natural Market, MO
Jerry Farrell, Owner/President, Rising Tide Natural Market, NY
Mark Fergusson, Chief Executive Officer, Down to Earth Organic & Natural, HI
Mike Ferry, President, Horizon Organic, CO
John Foraker, CEO, Annie's Inc., CA
Leonard Freeke, CEO and Founder, The Veri Soda Company, NY
Michael Funk, Co-Founder and Chairman, United Natural Foods Inc., RI
Robert Gerner, President, The Natural Grocery Company, CA
Diane Gibb-Lahodny, Owner, Campbell's Nutrition, IA
Neal Gottlieb, CEO, Three Twins Ice Cream, CA
Gail Graham, General Manager, Mississippi Market Natural Foods Coop, MN
Jerry Greenfield, Co-Founder, Ben & Jerry's Inc., VT
Hitesh Hajarnavis, Founder, esSvee, Life, NJ
Kristi Harwell, Owner/CEO, New Leaf Community Market, CA
Ben Henderson, Owner, Bare Essentials Natural Market, NC
Belinda Higuera, CEO, Berryvale Grocery, CA
Gary Hirshberg, Chairman, Stonyfield Farm Inc., NH
Roland Hoch, Vice President, Global Organics Ltd., MA
Janie Hoffman, CEO and Founder, Mamma Chia, CA
Stephanie Hong, CEO, Real Food Company, CA
Steve Hughes, Founder and CEO, Boulder Brands Inc., CO
Cheryl Hughes, Owner, The Whole Wheatery, CA
Nicolas Jammet, Co-Founder, Sweetgreen Inc., DC
Mindee Jeffery, Product & Standards Analyst, Good Earth Natural Foods, CA
Blair Kellison, CEO, Traditional Medicinals, CA
Rosanne Kiely, Owner, West Village Market & Deli, NC
Ashley Koff, CEO, Ashley Koff RD LLC, DC
Jesse LaFlamme, CEO, Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs, NH
Donna Layburn, President, Alameda Natural Grocery, CA
Lanis LeBaron, Owner, Lupines Natural Foods, CA
David Levine, Co-Founder and CEO, American Sustainable Business Council, DC
Grant Lundberg, CEO, Lundberg Family Farms Inc., CA
Susan and Maury Lyon, Owners, Cornucopia Natural Food & Fine Cheese, IL
Rose Marcario, CEO, Patagonia Inc., CA
Matt McLean, Founder and CEO, Uncle Matt's Organic, FL
Danny Meyer, CEO, Union Square Hospitality Group, NY
Paku Misra, Owner/CEO, Sunflower Natural Foods Market, NY
Sam Mogannam, Founder and President, Bi-Rite Market, CA
Marie Montemurro, Owner, Lovey's Natural Foods and Cafe, NC
Rod Moyer, Co-Founder, Beverage Innovations Inc., FL
Dean Nelson, President, Dean's Natural Food Markets, NJ
Nell Newman, Co-Founder, Newman's Own Organics, CT
Ted Niehaus, Owner/CEO, Naturally Organic, IL
Michel Nischan, President/CEO, Wholesome Wave, CT

Bu Nygrens, Co-Founder and Director of Purchasing, Veritable Vegetable, CA
Doug Obenhaus, Grocery Manager, Royal River Natural Foods, ME
Gwyneth Paltrow, Founder and CCO, goop.com, CA
Nick Pascoe, Owner/President, Bear Foods Natural Market & Café-Crêperie, WA
John Pittari Jr., President, Proprietor, New Morning Market, CT
Mark Polson, Owner/CEO, Polson's Natural Foods, IL
Michael Potter, Chairman and President, Eden Foods, MI
Angela Reusing, Chef-Owner, Lantern, NC
Douglas Riboud, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Harmless Harvest, CA
Evan Richards, Founder, Rejuvenative Foods, CA
Walter Robb, Co-CEO, Whole Foods Market, TX
Maria Rodale, CEO, Rodale Press, PA
Edouard Rollet, Co-Founder, Alter Eco Foods, CA
Layne Rolston, Communications Director, Good Food Store, MT
Scott Roseman, Founder and CEO, New Leaf Community Markets, CA
Bob Scaman, President, Goodness Greeness, IL
Mark Schoninger, Owner, Bath Natural Market, ME
Erin Schrode, Co-Founder and Spokeswoman, Turning Green, CA
Mathieu Senard, Co-Founder, Alter Eco Foods, CA
Ron Shaich, CEO, Panera Bread Inc., MA
Alan Shepherd, Owner, Rocket Market, WA
Corinne Shindelar, CEO, Independent Natural Food Retailers Association, MN
Ron Sjoquist, General Manager, Good Harvest Market, WI
Robynn Shrader, CEO, National Co-op Grocers, IA
Craig Sieben, President, Sieben Energy Associates, IL
George Siemon, CEO, Organic Valley, WI
Irwin D. Simon, Founder, Chairman, President and CEO, The Hain Celestial Group Inc., NY
Jim Slama, President, Family Farmed, IL
Joel Solomon, CEO, Joel Solomon Company, TN
Jimbo Someck, President, Jimbo's Naturally, CA
Tom Spier, CEO, Boulder Food Group, CO
Steve Spinner, CEO, United Natural Foods Inc., RI
Mark Squire, President and CEO, Good Earth Natural Foods, CA
Adam and Debra Stark, Owners, Debra's Natural Gourmet, MA
Arran Stephens, Co-Founder and CEO, Nature's Path Foods, WA
Bobby Sullivan, General Manager, French Broad Food Co-op, NC
Kelly Swette, CEO, Sweet Earth Natural Foods, CA
Sam Talbot, Founding Executive Chef, The Surf Lodge, NY
Shazi Visram, Founder/CEO, Happy Family Brands, NY
Dennis Wagner, President, Rainbow Grocery Cooperative Inc., CA
Laughing Water, Owner, Real Food Market & Deli, MT
Bill Weiland, President and CEO, Presence Marketing, IL
Cindy Weinfurter, Owner, The Free Market, WI
Tim Westwell, CEO, Pukka Herbs Inc., DE
Bill Whyte, CEO and Founder, W.S. Badger Company Inc., NH
Stephen Williamson, CEO, Forager Project, CA
John Wood II, Owner, The Green Grocer, RI
Alex Young, Zingerman's Roadhouse, MI

July 22, 2015

RE: H.R. 1599 – Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned clergymen and social justice leaders, we strongly urge you to oppose the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, also known as the Deny Americans the Right to Know (DARK) Act.

The DARK Act would sharply limit the number of Americans who have access to information about whether the food they purchase contains genetically engineered (commonly referred to as GMOs) ingredients by relying solely on a voluntary labeling system that has been in place since 2001, but has yielded no new information for consumers.

Specifically, the DARK Act would:

- Preempt all state labeling efforts;
- Make it harder for the Food and Drug Administration to ever require mandatory labeling nationwide;
- Codify the current, broken voluntary labeling system;
- Allow “natural” foods to contain GMO ingredients and preempt state efforts to end misleading “natural” claims;

A 2015 poll found that nearly 90 percent of consumers- regardless of race, age, gender, education or party affiliation- support mandatory GMO food labeling. Even if consumers are not seeking to avoid foods produced with GMOs, Americans want the same rights that consumers in 64 other countries- including the European Union, Brazil, Russia, China and Japan- have to make that decision for themselves and their families.

All too often, access to food is dependent on the neighborhood you live in. Relying solely on a voluntary labeling system means that only consumers who can afford to buy organic, shop at grocery stores that require labeling or live outside food deserts will have access to this information.

The DARK Act will continue to limit the information consumers- especially those in lower income areas- have about the food they buy for themselves and their families and we strongly urge you not to support this bill.

Thank you,

Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley, Pastor Emeritus Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

(Over)

Reverend Anthony Motley, Lindsay Street Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Reverend Timothy McDonald, III, President of the African American Ministers In Action of People for the American Way & Senior Pastor of the First Iconium Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Reverend Dr. Darrell Elligan, The True Light Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Reverend J. Allen Milner, Chapel-Christian Love Baptist, Atlanta, GA

Reverend Dr. Richard Cobble, Omega Holiness Church, Atlanta, GA

Reverend Eldridge Spearman, Mount Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD

K Rashid Nuri, President and CEO, Truly Living Well, Center for Natural Urban Agriculture, Atlanta, GA