

March 9, 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.

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.

The Senate Agriculture Committee recently reported a bill, S. 2609, out of committee that would not only pre-empt states from requiring labeling of GMO foods, it would strip FDA of its jurisdiction over GMO food labeling, potentially making it harder for companies like Campbell's Soup to voluntarily disclose the presence of GMOs and continuing to leave consumers in the dark about the foods they are buying and feeding their families.

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 S. 2609. 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

Wenonah Hauter  
Executive Director  
Food & Water Watch

Jean Halloran  
Director of Food Policy Initiatives  
Consumers Union

Erich Pica  
President  
Friends of the Earth

Gary Hirshberg  
Chairman  
Just Label It

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

Marty Hayden  
Vice President of Policy & Legislation  
Earthjustice

*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

Abundance  
ACEDC  
Action Aid USA  
Activate CT  
Adult and Family, PC  
Advocates for Justice  
AIMA of Nashua, PLLC  
Alaska Trollers 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.<sup>i</sup> 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.<sup>ii</sup> 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.<sup>iii</sup>

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.<sup>iv</sup> 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,<sup>v</sup> 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.<sup>vi</sup> 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.<sup>vii</sup> 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.<sup>viii</sup> 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  
Earthy 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  
DesMoines 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

---

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

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

<sup>iii</sup> 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>.



---

<sup>iv</sup> 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/>.

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

<sup>vi</sup> GMA. Member Directory. July 2013

<sup>vii</sup> Food & Water Watch analysis of GMA Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, Lobbying Reports from 2013. Available at Center for Responsive Politics. [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org). Includes GMA's own filings and hired lobbying firm filings.

<sup>viii</sup> 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

# JUST LABEL IT!

We have the right to know • [justlabelit.org](http://justlabelit.org)

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