

October 6, 2015

Dear Senator:

On behalf of more than 200 organizations, we write to strongly oppose H.R. 1599, the improperly-named “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015.”

This legislation would deny consumers the right to know what it is in their food and how it is grown. The bill would generally preempt state laws that require disclosure not only of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food, but also state laws ensuring that consumers are not misled by deceptive “natural” claims on foods, including laws having nothing to do with GMOs. The bill is based on the theory that states and localities have no interest in allowing consumers to know what is in their food or how it was grown. The sweeping preemption of state authority to inform consumers proposed by H.R. 1599 reflects an unacceptable attack on consumer choice and state efforts to protect human health and the environment.

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.

One reason consumers want to know is the widespread adoption of GMO crops has dramatically increased the use of glyphosate, an herbicide recently deemed a probable human carcinogen by a branch of the World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer. As weeds have grown resistant to glyphosate, farmers have turned to a mixture a glyphosate and 2,4-D, another chemical linked to cancer.

Congress should not rob states of the right to inform consumers and to protect human health and the environment. We urge you to reject H.R. 1599.

Sincerely,

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