



## **Keeping Food Safe and Affordable: A Policy That Just Makes Sense**

### **H.R. 4432: The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014**

Feeding the world, safely and affordably, is an important and challenging goal. The Kansas Farm Bureau and agricultural producers across Kansas, and the nation, are all working towards that goal and need the freedom to innovate to achieve it. To help them, Congressman Pompeo introduced legislation to ensure that American food producers can compete and feed the world affordably. The “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act” would allow our farmers to innovate to improve the quality, nutritional value and quantity of their crops and put safe, affordable food on families’ tables both here and across the world.

The legislation is not partisan – it has both Democrat and Republican sponsors. It enables the increased production of food while also achieving these other goals:

- **Federal Standards for American Food Safety Make Sense**

Congressman Pompeo is a big believer in states’ rights. Yet, our founders understood and enshrined in our Constitution certain provisions to protect individuals from being hurt by states or cities that tried to protect themselves at the expense of others and interfering with interstate commerce. That’s why, for example, we have the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – we don’t let cities decide where or how planes can fly in their airspace. Food regulation, including labeling, cannot be a crazy-quilt of conflicting requirements – that would create confusion for consumers and could cost average families over \$500 per year.

- **The Freedom to Innovate to Improve Our Food Supply is Critical**

Innovations in agricultural biotechnology have allowed farmers to increase yields, conserve water, protect farmland from soil erosion, and reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides. Crops that have benefited from these advances are in the foods we eat every single day, including corn, soybeans, and sugar beets. Most importantly, the ingredients in these foods are safe: Countless scientific studies done by dozens of independent research groups have affirmed and reaffirmed the safety of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

- **Regulation Must Ensure That Consumers That Prefer Non-GMO foods Are Not Impacted**

Everyone has the right to know what is in their food. These new guidelines would not prevent that. Companies will continue to label their products as organic, or if they so choose, as being free of genetically modified ingredients. But science has

proven, time and time again, that foods containing GMOs are safe for our families. Products that are safe should not require additional labeling. Families should not have to be burdened with increased food expenses due to unnecessary labeling requirements.

- **Improve Safety Reviews of New Technology Foods**

This legislation will create a process that requires an FDA safety review of genetically engineered crops to ensure their safety prior to introducing them into the food supply. It creates a national system for labeling that is consistent with our nation's tradition of requiring food labels only for health or safety reasons. If the FDA were to ever deem one of these products unhealthful, it would be empowered to specify required labeling for these products. This legislation is a common sense, science-based solution that will protect consumers.

This bill sets out to do two things: Allow farmers the freedom to utilize innovative technologies so they can safely and efficiently feed billions of people world-wide, and protect families from the increased food costs that will result from states mandating their own labeling requirements. Both of these points can be accomplished by giving the FDA—our nation's pre-eminent food safety organization—the oversight of food labeling guidelines for products containing GMOs.

**Lets keep our food safe and affordable! It is a policy that just makes sense.**