

## **ACTION ALERT**

**August 1, 2003**

### **Country of Origin — Grassroots Action Required**

During the first half of 2003, N.G.A. has been engaged in a concerted effort to repeal the country of origin labeling mandate scheduled to go into effect September 30, 2004. N.G.A. has expressed its opposition twice to the United States Department of Agriculture, retailers, wholesalers, state associations executives participated in USDA listening sessions across the country, and N.G.A.'s former chairman, Jay Campbell, President and CEO of Associated Grocers Baton Rouge, testified before the House Agriculture Committee on June 26. Over 150 retailers lobbied members of Congress during the Washington Conference, June 16-18.

On July 14, 2003, the House of Representatives approved legislation which would delay USDA action on country of origin labeling of meat, pork and lamb products for one year. Labeling for all other covered products such as seafood, peanuts, fruits and vegetables, would remain in effect. Pork and beef producers have gone on record in favor of repeal. **It has become clear that the one commodity group that continues to support country of origin labeling is the produce producers.**

#### **WHAT ACTION IS NEEDED?**

1. During this Congressional break while Congress is in recess until September 2, N.G.A. is making a concerted effort to educate members of Congress on the need to repeal this costly and burdensome law. Of particular importance are those members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, see the enclosed lists. **We would urge you to call or visit them in their local offices to ask for their support for repeal of this costly and burdensome law, and replace it with a workable voluntary program.**
2. Also, N.G.A. and the Food Marketing Institute are urging retailers and wholesalers to contact their produce suppliers to educate and inform them of the requirements that will be imposed upon their businesses in doing business with under COOL. They will, according to the law:
3. Have to label or sticker products with the country of origin;
4. Assure that products are properly segregated by country of origin;
5. Establish a verifiable audit trail to prove the accuracy of country of origin information;
6. Indemnify retailers and wholesalers from fines, costs, attorney fees that result from their failure to provide accurate labeling and information.

You should inform them that you would require a signed agreement of indemnification. Attached is a list of key produce supply organizations. If you have business relations with them, you should advise them of the costly burdens that both they and you will incur under COOL.

## **Members of the House Agriculture Committee:**

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### **Republicans**

Bob Goodlatte, VA Chairman

John A. Boehner, OH Vice Chairman

Terry Everett, AL

Kerry Moran, KS

William L. Kenkins, TN

Gil Gutknecht, MN

Doug Ose, CA

Robin Hayes, NC

Charles "Chip" Pickering, MS

Timothy V. Johnson, IL

Tom Osborne, NE

Mike Pence, IN

Dennis R. Rehberg, MT

Sam Graves, MO

Richard W. Pombo, CA

Nick Smith, MI

Frank D. Lucas, OK

Adam H. Putnam

William J. Janklow, SD

Max Burns, GA

Jo Bonner, AL

Mike Rogers, AL

Steve King, IA

Chris Chocola, IN

Marilyn N. Musgrave, CO

Devin Nunes, CA

Randy Neugebauer, TX

### **Democrats**

Charles W. Stenholm, TX, Ranking  
Minority Member

Calvin M. Dooley, CA

Tim Holden, PA

Mike McIntyre, NC

Bob Etheridge, NC

Baron P. Hill, IN

Joe Baca, CA

Mike Ross, AR

Aniabal Acevedo-Vila, PR

Ed Case, HI

Rodney Alexander, LA

Frank W. Ballance, Jr., NC

Dennis A. Cardoza, CA

Collin C. Peterson, MN

Bennie G. Thompson, MS

David Scott, GA

Jim Marshall, GA

Earl Pomeroy, ND

Leonard L. Boswell, IA

Ken Lucas, KY

Mike Thompson, CA

Mark Udall, CO

Rick Larsen, WA

Lincoln Davis, TN

## **Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:**

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### **Republicans**

Thad Cochran, MS Chairman

Richard G. Lugar, IN

Mitch McConnell, KY

Pat Roberts, KS

Peter Fitzgerald, IL

Saxby Chambliss, GA

Norm Coleman, MN

### **Democrats**

Tom Harkin, IA, Ranking Minority  
Member

Patrick J. Leahy, VT

Kent Conrad, ND

Thomas A. Daschle, SD

Max Baucus, MT

Blanche Lincoln, AK

Zell Miller, GA

Mike Crapo, ID  
James M. Talent, MO  
Elizabeth Dole, NC  
Charles E. Grassley, IA

Debbie Stebenow, MI  
E. Benjamin Nelson, NE  
Mark Dayton, MN

**Association/Group:**

United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable  
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20006

**Board of Directors:**

Karen B. Caplan (Chairman)  
Frieda's Inc.  
Los Alamitos, CA

Steve R. Grinstead  
(Past Chairman)  
Del Monte Fresh  
Produce, N.A.  
Dallas, TX

Will Russeau  
Russeau Farming Co.  
Tolleson, AZ

Daniel G. Vache  
(Secretary/Treasurer)  
Sensitech  
Redmond, WA

Lawrence A. Kern  
(Chairman Elect)  
Dole Food Company,  
Inc.  
Thousand Oaks, CA

John C. Sorenson  
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.  
Boise, ID

Robert J. Gordon  
Red's Market/  
Fresh Point, Inc.  
Orlando, FL

Gale Prince  
The Kroger Company  
Cincinnati, OH

Robert Stumpo  
Produce Connections  
Dublin, OH

Michael T. Rempe  
C.H. Robinson Worldwide  
Eden Prairie, MN

Ronald E. Carkorski  
Four Seasons Produce,  
Inc.  
Denver, PA

Nicholas Tompkins  
Apio, Inc.  
Guadalupe, CA

Charles A. Ciruli, Jr.  
Ciruli Brothers/Amex  
Distributing  
Tucson, AZ

Matthew D'Arrigo  
D'Arrigo Brothers  
Company of NY  
Bronx, NY

Michael J. Wooton  
Sunkist Growers  
Van Nuys, CA

Jan DeLyser  
California Avocado  
Commission  
Santa Ana, CA

Walter A. Duda, Jr.  
A. Duda & Sons  
Belle Glade, FL

John Shelford  
Global Berry Farms  
Naples, FL

Janet Fleming  
Strube Celery and  
Vegetable Co.  
Chicago, IL

Robert A. Grimm  
Grimmway Enterprises  
Bakersfield, CA

Michael J. Stuart  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable  
Assoc.  
Orlando, FL

Michael J. Kemp  
SUPERVALU, Inc.

Howard A. Leach

Sherrie Terry  
Chiquita Fresh, N.A.  
Cincinnati, OH

Frederick M. Williamson  
Andrew & Williamson

Chanhassen, MN

Ronald McCormick  
Wal-Mart Stores  
Bentonville, AR

Taylor Farms California, Sales Co.  
Inc. San Diego, CA  
Salinas, CA

Frank X. Padilla  
Costco Wholesale  
Issaquah, WA

### **Association/Group:**

Western Growers Association  
17620 Fitch Street  
Irvine, CA

### **Board of Directors:**

Edwin Camp (Chairman)  
D.M. Camp and Sons  
Bakersfield, CA

John Powell, Jr.  
(Vice Chairman)  
Peter Rabbit Farms  
Coachella, CA

Robby Barkley  
(Executive Secretary)  
Barkley Ag. Enterprises  
Yuma, AZ

Ron Burk  
Gold Coast Farms  
Santa Maria, CA

John D'Arrigo  
(Sr. Vice Chairman)  
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Salinas, CA

Robert P. Gray (Treasurer)  
Duda California/Gene  
Jackson Farms  
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Brian Bertelsen  
Cove Ranch Management  
Reedley, CA

Dan Robinson  
Robinson Farms  
Blythe, CA

Stephen J. Barnard  
Mission Produce  
Oxnard, CA

Ernest J. Bontadelli  
Bontadelli, Inc.  
Santa Cruz, CA

Sig Christerson  
Major Farms  
Salinas, CA

Thomas Deardorff II  
Deardorff-Jackson, Inc.  
Oxnard, CA

David Gill  
Rio Farms  
King City, CA

John Gless  
Gless Ranch  
Riverside, CA

David H. Hart  
Royal Packing Co.  
Salinas, CA

A.G. Kawamura

Dennis Parnagian  
Fowler Packing  
Fresno, CA

Norman Shiffman  
Dole Fresh Vegetables  
Salinas, CA

Bardin E. Bengard  
Bengard Ranch  
Salinas, CA

George Capello  
Capello Farms  
Bakersfield, CA

Stephen F. Danna  
Danna & Danna  
Salinas, CA

Charles Fanucchi  
Tri-Fanucchi Farms  
Arvin, CA

John B. Giovannetti  
B.E. Giovannetti & Sons  
Huron, CA

Robert Grimm  
Grimmway Enterprises, Inc.  
Bakersfield, CA

Alex C. Jack

Donald Valpredo  
Donald Valpredo Farms  
Bakersfield, CA

Kevin Andrew  
Sun World International  
Bakersfield, CA

Joe MacIrvine  
Paramount Farming  
Bakersfield, CA

Gary Pasquinelli  
Pasquinelli Produce  
Yuma, AZ

Mark Perez  
Perez Packing  
Firebaugh, CA

J. Miles Reiter  
Driscoll Strawberry  
Associates  
Watsonville, CA

Will Rousseau  
Rousseau Farming Co.  
Tolleson, AZ

Orange County Produce  
Irvine, CA

Philip Henry  
Henry Avocado Packing  
Corp.  
Escondido, CA

Rick Stacey  
Visalia Citrus Packing  
Corp.  
Visalia, CA

Bruce Taylor  
Taylor Farms  
Salinas, CA

Jon Vessey  
Vessey & Co.  
El Centro, CA

David Mills  
Mills, Inc.  
Salinas CA

Stephen Patricio  
Westside Produce  
Firebaugh, CA

Jack Brothers  
Brawley, CA

Fred LoBue  
LoBue Brothers  
Lindsay, CA

Stephen Martori  
Martori Farms  
Scottsdale, AZ

Craig Reade  
Bonita Packing  
Santa Maria, CA

Joseph "Sonny" Rodriguez  
The Growers Co.  
Somerton, AZ

Stephen Smith  
Turlock Fruit Co.  
Turlock, CA

Dean Storkan  
Tri-Cal, Inc.  
Hollister, CA

Glenn Texeira  
Texeira Farms  
Santa Maria, CA

**Other Agriculture Groups:** Please contact any of the groups listed below with whom you have a standing relationship and encourage them to work with us to eliminate mandatory country of origin labeling.

Alabama Farmers Federation  
Jerry Newby, President  
334-288-3900

Almond Board of California  
Richard Waycott, Pres. &  
CEO  
209-549-8262

American Corn Growers  
Association

Florida Grape Growers  
Association  
Bob Paulish, President  
813-633-0500

Florida Strawberry  
Growers Association  
Chip Hinton, Exec.  
Director  
813-752-6822

National Potato Council  
John Keeling, Exec. V.P.  
202-682-9456

National Watermelon  
Promotion Board  
Mark Arney, Exec. Director  
407-657-0261

New York Apple Association  
Jim Allen, President

Keith Dittrich, President 402-368-7786	Florida Tomato Committee	585-924-2171
American Mushroom Institute Laura Phelps, President 202-842-4344	Samantha Winters, Director 407-894-3071	New York State Vegetable Growers Association Larry Eckhardt, President 518-733-5137
California Apple Commission Kenton Kidd, President 559-456-0900	Fresh Produce and Floral Council Linda Stine, President 714-739-0177	North American Blueberry Council Mark Villata, Exec. Director 916-933-9399
California Asparagus Commission Cherie Watte, Exec. Director 209-474-7581	Fresh Produce Association of the Americas Lee Frankel, President 520-287-2707	Northern Plains Potato Growers Association Duane Maartz, President 218-773-3633
California Avocado Commission Mark Affleck, Pres. & CEO 949-341-1970	Association of Georgia Blueberry Growers Rusty Bell, President 912-647-2807	Northwest Horticultural Council Christian Schlecht, President 509-453-3193
California Cherry Advisory Board Jim Culbertson, Manager 209-368-0685	Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Kent Hamilton, President 706-845-8200	Ohio Fruit Growers Society/ Ohio Vegetable & Potato Growers Assoc. Tom Sachs, Exec. Director 614-246-8292
California Citrus Mutual Joel Nelson, President 559-592-3790	Georgia Muscadine Association Edward Bottoms, President 770-884-5661	Papaya Administrative Committee Emerson Llantero, Manager 808-969-1160
California Date Administrative Committee Lorrie Cooper, Exec. Director 760-347-4510	Georgia Peach Council Robert Dickey, President 478-956-6418	Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association John Mason, President 717-473-8468
California Fig Advisory Board Richard Matoian, Manager 559-224-3447	Georgia Peanut Producers Association Darvin Eason, President 229-432-9001	Pomegranate Council Dave Simonian, V.P. 209-834-5921
California Grape and Tree Fruit League Fred Berry, Interim Manager 559-226-6330	Georgia Watermelon	Produce for Better Health Foundation Elizabeth Pivonka,

California Association of Winegrape Growers Karen Ross, President 916-924-5370	Association Randy Jackson, President 229-775-2130	President 302-235-2329
California Kiwifruit Commission Scott Horsfall, President 916-362-7490	Grower Shipper Association of Central California James Bogart, President 831-422-8844	Produce Marketing Association Brian Silbermann, President 302-738-7100
Agriculture Groups, cont.:		South Carolina Tomato Association Brian Lawrimore 843-571-0056
California Mushroom Council Bart Minor, President 925-556-5970	Gulf Citrus Growers Association Ron Hamel, Exec. V.P. 863-675-2180	Soybean Producers of America Harvey Joe Spanner, Exec. Director 501-516-7001
California Pear Advisory Board Chris Zanobini, Exec. Director 916-441-0432	Idaho-E. Oregon Onion Committee Larry Link, Manager 208-722-5111	Texas Citrus Exchange Joel Wilsher, Sr. V.P. 956-585-8321
California Pear Growers Terry Barton, President 916-774-9550	Idaho Grower Shippers Association David A. Smith, President 208-529-4400	Texas Citrus Mutual Ray Pruett, President 956-584-1772
California Pistachio Commission Karen Reinecke, President 559-221-8294	Idaho Potato Commission Mel Anderson, Exec. Director 208-334-2350	Texas Produce Association John McClung, President 956-581-8632
California Strawberry Commission Rodger Wasson, President 831-724-1301	Maine Potato Board Andrew Yeager, President 207-769-5061	Texas Vegetable Association Allan Mize, President 956-584-1681
California Table Grape Commission Kathleen Nave, President 559-447-8350	Michigan Apple Committee Patrick O'Connor, Interim Manager 517-336-4680	U.S. Apple Association Jim Cranney, V.P. 703-442-8850
California Tomato Growers Association Don Cameron, CEO 209-478-1761	Agriculture Groups,	Walnut Marketing Board Dennis Balint, Exec. Director 916-922-5888
		Washington Apple Commission

California Tree Fruit Agreement Blair Richardson, President 559-638-8260	cont.:	Welcome Sauer, President 509-663-9600
Cherry Marketing Institute Philip Korson, President 517-669-4264	Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board Perry DeKryger, Exec. Director 517-669-4250	Washington Asparagus Commission Kevin Bouchey, Chairman 509-263-4303
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee Chris Voigt, Exec. Director 719-852-3322	Michigan Blueberry Growers Association Kirk McCreary, General Manager 616-434-6791	Washington Growers Clearing House Kirk Mayer, Chairman/Manager 509-662-6181
Florida Citrus Mutual Andy LeVigne, CEO & Exec. V.P. 863-682-1111	Michigan State Horticultural Society Lynn Sage 517-625-6227	Washington State Fruit Commission B.J. Thurlby, President 509-453-4837
Florida Citrus Packers Richard Kinney 941-682-0151	Minnesota Apple Growers Association Ralph Yates 507-895-4750	Washington State Potato Commission Pat Boss, Exec. Director 509-765-4853
Florida Department of Citrus Bob Crawford, Exec. Director 863-499-2500	Missouri Farmers Union Russ Kremer, President 573-659-4787	Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Assoc. Mike Carter, Exec. Director 715-623-7683
Florida Farmers, Inc. Paul DiMare, Chairman 305-245-4211	National Farmers Organization Paul Olson, President 515-292-2000	
	National Farmers Union David Frederickson, President 303-337-5500	
	National Onion Association Wayne Mininger, Exec. V.P. 970-353-5895	

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to

contact Mike Mason, N.G.A. Director of Public Affairs, (703) 516-0700 or [mmason@NationalGrocers.org](mailto:mmason@NationalGrocers.org).

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If you have questions or need additional information, contact Tom Wenning at [publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org](mailto:publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org).

Would you prefer to receive Action and Recall Alerts via e-mail? E-mail us at [publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org](mailto:publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org).

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