



ACTION ALERT

July 22, 2004

Victory for N.G.A., House Agriculture Committee Approves H.R. 4576; Bill to Repeal Mandatory in Favor of Voluntary Labeling Now Advances to House Floor

In a significant victory for the food industry, the House Agriculture Committee today approved without amendment H.R. 4576, the bill which would repeal the burdensome and costly mandatory country of origin labeling program and replace it with a voluntary system. The bill passed on a voice vote. **The strong grassroots support of N.G.A. members played a considerable role in this legislative victory.** We now anticipate that the House will consider the bill in the fall, after Congress returns on September 7 from its recess around the party conventions, which begins tomorrow.

In today's session, Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT) offered a substitute for H.R. 4576, which was backed by the supporters of mandatory labeling and would have essentially killed H.R. 4576. The Rehberg amendment was rejected on a vote of 16 in favor and 32 against. A roll call list is below; a "no" vote supported N.G.A. retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and state associations. During the upcoming recess, please take the opportunity to thank those members of the Agriculture Committee who voted against the Rehberg amendment.

Your calls and personal visits with your members of Congress will be more important than ever in the coming weeks, as N.G.A. works to generate momentum for a House vote on H.R. 4576. Please contact your House members when they are back home during the recess and urge them to cosponsor and vote in favor of H.R. 4576. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact N.G.A. Senior Vice President and General Counsel Tom Wenning at (703) 516-0700 or twenning@nationalgrocers.org.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

	On Rehberg Amendment
<u>Republicans</u>	
Bob Goodlatte, VA, Chairman	NO
John A. Boehner, OH, Vice Chairman	NO
Richard W. Pombo, CA	NO
Nick Smith, MI	NO
Terry Everett, AL	<i>Yes</i>
Frank D. Lucas, OK	NO
Jerry Moran, KS	NO
William L. Jenkins, TN	NO
Gil Gutknecht, MN	NO
Doug Ose, CA	NO
Robin Hayes, NC	NO
Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, MS	NO
Timothy V. Johnson, IL	NO
Tom Osborne, NE	<i>Yes</i>

Mike Pence, IN	NO
Dennis R. Rehberg, MT	<i>Yes</i>
Sam Graves, MO	NO
Adam H. Putnam, FL	NO
Max Burns, GA	NO
Jo Bonner, AL	<i>Yes</i>
Mike Rogers, AL	<i>Yes</i>
Steve King, IA	NO
Chris Chocola, IN	NO
Marilyn N. Musgrave, CO	NO
Devin Nunes, CA	<i>Yes</i>
Randy Neugebauer, TX	NO
	On Rehberg
	<u>Amendment</u>
<u>Democrats</u>	
Charles W. Stenholm, TX	NO
Collin C. Peterson, MN	<i>Yes</i>
Calvin M. Dooley, CA	NO
Tim Holden, PA	<i>Yes</i>
Bennie G. Thompson, MS	NO
Mike McIntyre, NC	NO
Bob Etheridge, NC	NO
Baron P. Hill, IN	<i>Yes</i>
Joe Baca, CA	<i>Yes</i>
Mike Ross, AR	NO
Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá, PR	Did Not Vote
Ed Case, HI	<i>Yes</i>
Rodney Alexander, LA	<i>Yes</i>
Dennis A. Cardoza, CA	NO
David Scott, GA	NO
Jim Marshall, GA	NO
Ben Chandler, KY	NO
Stephanie Herseth, SD	<i>Yes</i>
Earl Pomeroy, ND	<i>Yes</i>
Leonard L. Boswell, IA	<i>Yes</i>
Mark Udall, CO	<i>Yes</i>
Rick Larsen, WA	NO
Lincoln Davis, TN	NO