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# News Release

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**N.G.A. PRAISES HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE BILL  
TO REPEAL MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING  
AND REPLACE IT WITH A VOLUNTARY, INDUSTRY-DRIVEN LABELING SYSTEM**

WASHINGTON – The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) praised today’s vote by the House Agriculture Committee to approve H.R. 4576, a bill that would repeal the costly and burdensome mandatory country of origin labeling program and replace it with a voluntary, industry-driven labeling system.

“Today’s vote to approve H.R. 4576 represents a significant victory for America’s community-focused retail grocers, wholesalers and consumers. This bill will provide origin information to consumers and to promote American agricultural products in a way that is beneficial, not burdensome, to producers and growers,” said Thomas K. Zaucha, President & CEO of N.G.A. “N.G.A. urges the House and Senate to act swiftly to pass H.R. 4576.”

America’s grocery industry remains committed to providing consumers with the safest, highest quality food products, as well as furnishing useful and pertinent information about these products, Zaucha said. N.G.A. and a broad coalition of more than 300 food industry groups, including retailers and wholesalers, agricultural producers and manufacturers, have come together to support H.R. 4576 as a voluntary alternative to mandatory labeling, he said.

“N.G.A. thanks House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Ranking Member Charles W. Stenholm (D-TX) for their leadership in introducing H.R. 4576. Thanks to the House Agriculture Committee’s action today, we have a greater prospect for a practical, common-sense solution to providing country of origin information, rather than a costly and ineffective mandatory labeling scheme,” Zaucha said.

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N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. Independents are the true “entrepreneurs” of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: [www.NationalGrocers.org](http://www.NationalGrocers.org).