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AFFI Urges Congress to Fund FDA's Food Safety Initiatives

McLean, Va. – [American Frozen Food Institute](#) (AFFI), along with a coalition of other food groups, [urged the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives](#) to develop a fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations bill that funds U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety programs.

"Food safety is the highest priority for America's frozen food and beverage makers," said AFFI President and CEO Alison Bodor. "Providing sufficient federal resources to adequately fund FDA's critical food safety activities, including the implementation of FDA's *Food Safety Modernization Act* (FSMA), without increasing costs for consumers and food makers is vitally important."

FSMA, which was signed into law in January 2011, represents the first major overhaul of the nation's food safety system in more than 70 years. AFFI has been actively engaged on behalf of its 400 members to help shape the rules required by FDA to guide implementation of FSMA.

The AFFI-led coalition reiterated, "In order to maintain consumer confidence in the safety and integrity of America's food supply and to reduce the number of foodborne illnesses, it is important that FDA also has the training, technical assistance and infrastructure in place to implement FSMA effectively. Our commitment to food safety is steadfast and we need a strong FDA as our partner to fully implement FSMA and to play its proper role in ensuring the safety of the nation's food supply."

Joining the American Frozen Food Institute on the letter were the American Bakers Association, Campbell Soup Company, Cargill, Inc., The Coca-Cola Company, Conagra Brands, Inc., Costco Wholesale, Grocery Manufacturers Association, The International Bottled Water Association, The Hershey Company, The Kellogg Company, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Mars Incorporated, National Fisheries Institute, Nestlé U.S.A., The Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association, PepsiCo, Inc., Produce Marketing Association, Unilever, Inc., United Fresh Produce Association, and Walmart Stores, Inc.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food and beverage industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before

legislative and regulatory entities on the industry's behalf. More information can be found at www.affi.org.