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AFFI Urges Senate to Advance Roberts Food Labeling Proposal

McLean, VA – The [American Frozen Food Institute](http://www.affi.org) (AFFI) today commended the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) for introducing a proposal that would establish a federal labeling standard for food and beverage products with genetically enhanced ingredients (GMOs).

Introduced by Sen. Roberts, the legislation preempts state-level efforts to enact mandatory GMO labeling by empowering the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create a uniform, national labeling program.

"AFFI applauds Sen. Roberts for introducing a proposal to create a federal program for the labeling of foods containing genetically enhanced ingredients," said AFFI Interim President Joseph Clayton. "AFFI supports a responsible and effective federal labeling program that prevents the creation of a complicated patchwork of state-based labeling rules that would increase, rather than reduce, consumer confusion and food prices."

"A federal labeling program will bolster consumer confidence while giving frozen food and beverage makers the certainty they need to meet the needs of America's consumers," said Clayton.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015" (H.R. 1599) by a vote of 275-150 in July 2015.

H.R. 1599 requires food makers to receive FDA certification in writing that their products have been deemed safe to enter the commercial market, and ensures consistency between the non-GMO certification processes established at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other voluntary labeling programs. The legislation also includes a federal labeling standard for the definition of "natural" food.

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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.