



November 17, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
 The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
 Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 U.S. Senate
 SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

Our organizations would like to commend your bipartisan efforts to craft sensible legislation that will strengthen the foundation of America's food safety system. We support HELP Committee approval and full Senate passage of S. 510, the *FDA Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009*, which will provide the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the resources and authorities the agency needs to help make prevention the focus of our food safety strategies.

We support proposals to continually improve the safety of America's food supplies, including many of the reforms contained in S. 510. In particular, we support proposals to require food companies to have a food safety plan; to set safety standards for certain fresh fruit and vegetables; to improve the safety of imported food and food ingredients; to adopt a risk-based approach to inspection that recognizes the important role played by states and competent foreign authorities; and proposals to give FDA stronger enforcement powers. Together, we believe these reforms and others in S.510 will reduce the risk of contamination, raise the bar for our industry, and deter bad actors.

Our organizations are committed to working with you to quickly enact food safety legislation which makes the prevention of contamination the foundation of our food safety system. We look forward to working with Congress to enact food safety legislation that boosts consumer confidence and addresses the challenges posed by today's food supply.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association
 American Beverage Association
 American Frozen Food Institute
 Food Marketing Institute
 Grocery Manufacturers Association
 International Dairy Foods Association
 International Foodservice Distributors Association
 National Association of Manufacturers
 National Coffee Association
 National Confectioners Association
 National Fisheries Institute
 National Restaurant Association
 Produce Marketing Association
 Snack Food Association