

NEWS RELEASE

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Midwest Food Processors Applaud Senate Agreement on GMO Labeling

The Midwest Food Processors Association ([MWFPA](#)) today applauded an agreement reached among negotiators in the U.S. Senate on national disclosure standards for genetically engineered foods allowing companies to disclose GMO ingredients through digital codes rather than on-package language or symbols.

“This bipartisan Senate agreement is great news for consumers and food manufacturers across the country” said MWFPA President Nick George. “Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts and Senator Debbie Stabenow are to be commended on their perseverance in reaching an accord on this major piece of legislation” he added.

The legislation would provide most food companies with the option of disclosing GMO ingredients through either a digital, smartphone code, or through an on-package symbol or language that would need to be approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The code would be accompanied by the phrase: “Scan here for more food information.”

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The measure would also nullify Vermont's first-in-the-nation GMO labeling law, which takes effect July 1 and would bar any other state from enacting labeling requirements that differ from the federal standards.

This was an important facet of the bill, according to George. "Inclusion of this language will eliminate a patchwork of state-by-state labeling laws that would only confuse consumers, stigmatize GMO crops, and raise food costs" he said.

The legislation will need 60 votes to pass the Senate but it's unlikely to receive consideration before next week. The House, which is on break until July 5, would also have to approve the legislation since it differs in many respects from the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599) that chamber passed last July by a vote of 275-150.

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The Midwest Food Processors Association is the foremost voice of the food processing industry in the Midwest. The association lobbies on legislative and regulatory matters; promotes safe food processing practices; investigates new technologies; funds industry research; and plans industry events. It represents over 100 processing facilities in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.