

Support Fresh, Safe Local Food in the Food Safety Bill

November 6, 2010

Dear Senator:

The **127 undersigned organizations** represent consumers, farmers and ranchers, local food producers, and co-ops who are concerned that the pending food safety legislation, S.510, the Food Safety Modernization Act, will unnecessarily burden and handicap small-scale, local food producers. We urge you to support the amendment co-sponsored by Senators Tester and Hagan to ensure that small-scale direct-marketing farms and food producers are protected from unnecessary and overly burdensome federal regulations.

All of the well-publicized incidents of contamination in recent years – **including the recent egg recall** – occurred in industrialized food supply chains that span national and even international boundaries. The food safety problems in this system can and should be addressed without harming the local food systems that provide an alternative for consumers.

The growing trend toward healthy, fresh, **locally sourced** vegetables, fruit, dairy, and value-added products **improves** food safety by providing the opportunity for consumers to know their farmers and processors, to choose products on the basis of that relationship, and to readily trace any problems should they occur.

Farmers and processors who sell directly to consumers and end users have a direct relationship with their customers that ensures quality, safety, transparency and accountability. In addition, small-scale food producers are already regulated by local and state authorities, and the potential risk their products pose is inherently limited by their size. For these farmers and processors, new federal requirements are unnecessary and would simply harm both the food producers and their consumers.

Although S. 510 includes some provisions for flexibility for small and diversified producers and processors, the bill's new hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls would affect these facilities and authorize FDA to dictate growing and harvesting practices for produce. These requirements will impose significant expenses and burdens on individuals and small businesses.

We therefore urge you to support the Tester-Hagan Amendment.

For more information, contact Sara Kendall at 202-547-7040 or sara@worc.org, or Judith McGeary at 512-484-8821 or Judith@FarmAndRanchFreedom.org.

Sincerely,

National and Multi-State Organizations

Acres USA
Adopt a Farm Family
Alliance for Natural Health - USA
Alternative Energy Resources Organization

American Goat Society
American Grassfed Association
American Policy Center
Appalachian Sustainable Development

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Center for Food Safety
Citizens for Health
Community Food Security Coalition
Constitutional Alliance
The Cornucopia Institute
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Aid
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
FarmAssist Productions
Freedom21
Institute for Local Self Reliance

Local Harvest
National Family Farm Coalition
National Health Freedom Action
Natural Environmental Ecological Management
Organic Consumers Association
Organization for Competitive Markets
R-CALF USA
Small Farmer's Journal
Small Farms Conservancy
Sovereignty International
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Weston A Price Foundation

State and Local Organizations

Bountiful Cities Project (NC)
Bozeman Winter Farmers Market (MT)
Community Food and Agriculture Coalition of
Missoula County (MT)
Corvallis-Albany Farmers Markets (OR)
Crawford Stewardship Project (WI)
Dakota Resource Council
Dakota Rural Action
Edible Austin (TX)
Edible Missoula (MT)
Edible San Marcos (TX)
Empire State Family Farm Alliance (NY)
Florida Certified Organic Growers & Consumers
Food for Maine's Future
Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition (ND)
Idaho Rural Council
Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming
Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural
Design (MI)
Lane County Food Policy Council (OR)
Long Beach Grows (CA)
Maine Alternative Agriculture Association
Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
Massachusetts Smallholders Alliance
Maui Aloha Aina Association (HI)
Michigan Land Trustees
Michigan Land Use Institute
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Montana Cattlemen's Association
Montana Farmers Union
Montana Organic Association

Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation
North Missoula Community Development
Corporation (MT)
Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)
Northwest Michigan Food & Farming Network
Oregon Farmers Market Association
Oregon Rural Action
Portland Farmers Market (OR)
Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY)
Raw Milk Association of Colorado
Red Lodge Farmers Market (MT)
Salem Saturday Market (OR)
Second Chance Foundation (NY)
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin
Mary (ND)
Slow Food - Austin (TX)
South Agassiz Resource Council (ND)
South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
Sustainable Food Center (TX)
Sustainable Living Systems (MT)
Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association
The Growing Community (IN)
The Second Chance Foundation (NY)
Tuscaloosa Property Rights Alliance (AL)
Valley Organic Growers Association (CO)
Virginia Independent Consumers & Farmers
Association
Western Colorado Congress
Western Wake Farmers' Market (NC)
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition (OR)
Winter Green (NC)

Co-Ops

Abundance Cooperative Market (NY)
Alternative Food Co-op (RI)
Ashland Food Cooperative (OR)
Basics Cooperative (WI)
Belfast Co-Op (ME)
Berkshire Co-Op Market (MA)
Chatham Marketplace (NC)
City Center Market (MN)
City Market/ Onion River Co-op (VT)
Common Ground Food Co-op (IL)
Deep Roots Market (NC)
Eastside Food Co-op (MN)
Fiddleheads Natural Food Coop (CT)
Fort Collins Food Co-op (CO)
Good Earth Market (MT)
Idaho's Bounty Co-op
Just Food Co-op (MN)
Kimberton Whole Foods (PA)
Lost River Market & Deli Co-op (IN)

Maryland Small Farm Cooperative
Moscow Food Co-op (ID)
Nebraska Food Cooperative
Neighborhood Co-op Grocery (IL)
Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Co-Op (CA)
PCC Natural Markets (WA)
Rising Tide Community Market (ME)
River Market Community Co-op (MN)
Rochester Good Food Co-op (MN)
Sacramento Natural Foods Cooperative (CA)
St. Johnsbury Food Coop (VT)
Swarthmore Co-Op (PA)
Three Rivers Market (TN)
Ukiah Natural Foods Co-op (CA)
Upper Valley Food Co-Op (VT)
Whole Foods Co-op (MN)
Willmantic Food Co-op (CT)