



## The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 (H.R. 1599) recognizes **that consumers want to know more** about where their food comes from and how it is produced. The bill establishes a **voluntary, USDA-administered certification program** for labeling Genetically Engineered (GE) food products.

H.R. 1599 is a **reasonable, workable solution** to avoid a situation where 50 states set up 50 different labeling schemes. A 50-label scenario would create confusion for consumers, farmers and food companies. It would also **drive up consumer grocery bills**.

The non-GE certification process established by H.R. 1599 is **modeled after the success of USDA's National Organic Program**, including record-keeping, enforcement and due process provisions.

**By definition, organic products are non-GE.** Currently certified organic producers and processors will have immediate access to the new labeling program and be recognized as non-GE without filing additional paperwork or paying fees.

Numerous international and scientific bodies – the Food and Drug Administration, National Academy of Sciences, the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization and others – have found that **foods and ingredients obtained from GE crops are safe to eat thereby negating any need for mandatory labeling**.

Just last week, Dr. Daniel Fabricant, CEO of the Natural Products Association acknowledged, **"Some consumers really like the idea of mandatory labeling of GMOs, but then you get into the manufacturing and science and it's a bit murky."**

Under H.R. 1599, FDA's voluntary GE food safety consultation process would transition to a mandatory program **enforced by USDA**. FDA will continue to take action based on health or safety concerns of GE foods.

The bill's preemption on state and local government labels **does not extend to current GE crop planting requirements**. Herbicides used in the production of GE crops undergo a thorough, multi-layer review to ensure they meet the safety requirements contained in the Federal, Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

The use of technology, such as quick response matrix bar codes, for delivering information is an exciting opportunity to provide consumers with information. **This emerging technology does not eliminate the need for the rigorous and trustworthy verification process established by the H.R. 1599.**