

South Carolina Department of Agriculture . . .

**Hugh E. Weathers
Commissioner of Agriculture**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Weathers Supports State's Food Safety Oversight

COLUMBIA, SC – Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of South Carolina, today issued a statement regarding the National Uniformity for Food Act (HR 4167), a bill which would preempt all existing and future state and local food labeling requirements.

Currently, oversight of food safety is primarily a matter of state law. In order to continue to provide the level of protection that our consumers expect and require, this bill must not become law. I believe in states' rights and I believe that this bill, if enacted, would not only take away those rights but it would also make our state's food supply less secure.

I join the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, a national organization of commissioners and directors of which I am a member, and the Association of Food and Drug Officials, an organization of state regulators who are responsible for food safety and uniformity, in opposition to this bill.

State and local governments will remain the first line of defense when problems arise in food safety and protection. While food safety and protection should remain the primary function of each state, all levels of government should continue to work together to protect our food supply. I believe that prohibiting state and local oversight of food safety would be a serious mistake.

For more information about the food safety and labeling, call 803-734-2210.