

Support Fresh, Safe Local Food in the Food Safety Bill

November 17, 2010

Dear Senator:

The **132 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 McGearry at 512-484-8821 or Judith@FarmAndRanchFreedom.org.

Sincerely,

National and Multi-State Organizations

<i>Acres USA</i>	Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Adopt a Farm Family	FarmAssist Productions
Alliance for Natural Health - USA	Freedom21
Alternative Energy Resources Organization	Institute for Local Self Reliance
American Goat Society	Local Harvest
American Grassfed Association	National Family Farm Coalition
American Policy Center	National Health Freedom Action
Appalachian Sustainable Development	Natural Environmental Ecological Management
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Center for Food Safety	Organic Consumers Association
Citizens for Health	Organization for Competitive Markets
Community Food Security Coalition	R-CALF USA
Constitutional Alliance	<i>Small Farmer's Journal</i>
The Cornucopia Institute	Small Farms Conservancy
Family Farm Defenders	Sovereignty International
Farm Aid	Western Organization of Resource Councils
	Weston A Price Foundation

State and Local Organizations

Bountiful Cities Project (NC)	Massachusetts Smallholders Alliance
Bozeman Winter Farmers Market (MT)	Maui Aloha Aina Association (HI)
Community Food and Agriculture Coalition of Missoula County (MT)	Michigan Land Trustees
Corvallis-Albany Farmers Markets (OR)	Michigan Land Use Institute
Crawford Stewardship Project (WI)	Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Dakota Resource Council	Montana Cattlemen's Association
Dakota Rural Action	Montana Farmers Union
<i>Edible Austin</i> (TX)	Montana Organic Association
Edible Missoula (MT)	Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
Edible San Marcos (TX)	New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation
Empire State Family Farm Alliance (NY)	North Missoula Community Development Corporation (MT)
Fair Food Matters (MI)	Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)
Florida Certified Organic Growers & Consumers	Northwest Farmer to Farmer Exchange (OR)
Food for Maine's Future	Northwest Michigan Food & Farming Network
Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition (ND)	Oregon Farmers Market Association
Idaho Rural Council	Oregon Rural Action
Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming	Portland Farmers Market (OR)
Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design (MI)	Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY)
Lane County Food Policy Council (OR)	Raw Milk Association of Colorado
Long Beach Grows (CA)	Red Lodge Farmers Market (MT)
Maine Alternative Agriculture Association	Salem Saturday Market (OR)
Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association	Second Chance Foundation (NY)
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation	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)
Thrive (OR)

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)
People's Food Co-op of Kalamazoo (MI)
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)