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House to consider food safety legislation after July 4

Published on 06/25/2009 12:48pm By Tom Karst

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The House of Representatives plans to consider the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 after July 4.

The United Fresh Produce Association, Washington, D.C., said in an e-mail to members June 23 that the food safety legislation is expected to be debated and voted on in early July, before the August recess.

The timing of Senate consideration is not known yet, as members there are dealing with health care reform.

Tom Stenzel, president of United Fresh, urged industry in the e-mail to stay engaged on the food safety issue through the summer and into the fall. In particular, he said the Washington Public Policy Conference Sept. 9-11 should provide attendees an opportunity to be involved in the debate.

United Fresh has already worked to make the food safety more workable for the industry, Stenzel said. Since May, he said United Fresh has helped strengthen commodity-specific approach to fresh produce oversight, boost flexibility in traceability solutions and limited registration fees on domestics facilities and importers, among other improvements.

"As Senate leaders begin work on their own food safety bill later this year, we look forward to providing input that will result in passage of sound, scientific food safety legislation," Stenzel in the e-mail.

For additional information on the conference, visit the United Fresh Web site at <http://www.unitedfresh.org/> or contact Angela Bezon at (202) 303-3400, ext. 416, or at abezon@unitedfresh.org.

Tags: food safety, legislation, United Fresh

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A standing-room-only crowd of 800-plus farmworkers, growers and environmentalists squeezed into an auditorium on the California State University-Fresno campus June 28 to hear how the Obama administration plans to address the state's ongoing water woes. Led by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, the delegation of federal officials unveiled plans for short-term and long-term efforts to resolve the California water problems.



Then, the latest chapter of California's ongoing water drama unfolded in a rally July 1 at Fresno City Hall. The rally, headlined by actor-comedian Paul Rodriguez, who has some fruit acreage and is president of the Latino Water Coalition, attracted a crowd estimated at 2,000. It included farm workers, growers and government



officials.

Read the full articles by Don Schrack: [Town hall meeting pleases few](#), [Water rally in Fresno](#)

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