



NEWS RELEASE

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**Statement of Tom Stenzel, President & CEO, United Fresh Produce Association
On Senate Passage of Roberts-Stabenow GMO Labeling Legislation**

“United Fresh applauds the historic passage yesterday of legislation crafted by Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas and Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan that establishes federal standards for the labeling of GMO foods. The Senate language passed on a strong, bipartisan vote of 63-30 and provides much-needed clarity for the food and agriculture sector, as well as consumers. The bill puts the requirement for labeling on those companies that introduce these foods into the marketplace, which may reduce the pressure on companies to seek “non-GMO” verified labeling. At the same time, the bill provides significant flexibility to companies with genetically engineered foods as to the manner of labeling, whether on package text, symbol or link to a website.

Finally, this bill would provide for a coherent national labeling program, preventing the 50-state nightmare that might otherwise arise. The bill is widely supported by all sectors of the food industry, including all major farm organizations, food manufacturers and retailers. United Fresh urges the House of Representatives to pass this measure as soon as possible and send it to the President for his signature.”

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About United Fresh Produce Association

Founded in 1904, the **United Fresh Produce Association** brings together companies across every segment of the fresh produce supply chain, including growers, shippers, fresh-cut processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, industry suppliers and allied associations. We empower industry leaders to shape sound government policy. We deliver the resources and expertise companies need to succeed in managing complex business and technical issues. We provide the training and development individuals need to advance their careers in produce. Through these endeavors, we unite our industry with a common purpose – to build long-term value for our members and grow produce consumption.