



NEWS RELEASE

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United Fresh Publishes White Paper on Vermont Food Labeling Law
Document Recommends Best Practices for Compliance

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 8, 2016) – United Fresh Produce Association has published a white paper and legal backgrounder to assist member companies in understanding and complying with a labeling law for genetically engineered foods due to go in effect in Vermont on July 1, 2016.

“We have heard much confusion about Vermont’s law, which will be the first state to require labeling of genetically engineered foods,” said United Fresh President & CEO Tom Stenzel. “While we continue to urge Congress to find a national solution rather than face a patchwork of different state requirements, we felt it important now to advise members about Vermont’s law specifically as it is due to take effect soon.”

The white paper advises retailers about the small number of commodities that might possibly be genetically engineered and thus fall under the labeling law. “It’s important for Vermont retailers seeking to comply with the law to understand that only a very few produce items might be covered,” Stenzel said. “We have heard some cases of companies asking all of their produce suppliers for certification that products are not genetically engineered, but that is unnecessary and adds needless cost to the supply chain. Hopefully this white paper will be helpful in directing the industry’s attention only to those commodities that could possibly be covered by the law,” he said.

The white paper also reinforces United Fresh’s support for the use of modern technology in plant breeding, which will be critical to tackling challenges of pest, diseases and drought, as well as enhancing nutrition and other consumer attributes. “It’s important that produce companies and retailers have a dialogue with consumers about the valuable role technology can play in plant breeding. With greater understanding and a transparent dialogue with consumers, we believe much of the fear in the marketplace today will gradually fade away,” Stenzel said.

The whitepaper is available for download on the United Fresh website [here](#).

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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.