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House ag committee passes anti-GMO labeling legislation

Former Organic Trade Assoc.'s Public Servant award winner calls legislation a 'workable solution'

by Sustainable Food News
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The House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday approved legislation that would prohibit states from requiring the labeling of food with genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The House approved an [amendment that substitutes for H.R. 1599](#), the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, which was initially introduced by Reps. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.) and G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.).

"Consumers increasingly want to know more about where their food comes from and how it is produced. I think H.R. 1599 satisfies that demand while also recognizing what we know about the safety of the foods that our farmers produce. The bill is a workable solution that will alleviate the potential mess of 50 states with 50 different labeling schemes," said ranking House ag committee member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.).

Peterson was the 2010 recipient of the Organic Trade Association's Public Servant Award, which was first given to Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) in 2009.

"The current patchwork system of varied labels interferes with the free flow of goods across the country, posing a real threat to interstate commerce and typically results in inconsistent and confusing information for consumers," said Ag Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway. "Creating a uniform national policy regarding biotechnology labeling is the free market solution that will allow consumers access to meaningful information, create market opportunities for those on the production and processing side, and will facilitate future innovation."

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