

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 7, 2016



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Midwest Food Processors Praise Senate Action on GMO Labeling

The Midwest Food Processors Association ([MWFPA](http://www.mwfpa.org)) praised members of the U.S. Senate who voted for cloture on S. 764, bipartisan legislation that would mandate GMO labeling nationwide but give food companies options for complying.

Sixty votes were needed in order to invoke cloture thus allowing lawmakers to end debate and set up a floor vote as soon as today. The vote was 65-32.

“This legislation will provide consumers with a transparent food ingredient disclosure system while blocking the harmful impacts of a patchwork of state labeling laws,” said MWFPA President Nick George.

The legislation would, in part, preempt Vermont’s mandatory on-package labeling law, which takes effect July 1. Vermont’s law would require items to be labeled “produced with genetic engineering.” The Second Circuit Court of Appeals is still considering the food industry’s challenge to Vermont’s enactment on constitutional grounds.

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“The Vermont law could lead to a patchwork of confusing state specific laws related to GMO labeling. This risks confusion in the marketplace and rising food costs,” added George. “Yet, we also understand the desire of consumers to know what is in their food and this bill provides for their ability to do so.”

The compromise bill provides for a national uniform labeling standard for the disclosure of bioengineered foods. It offers companies a choice of providing consumers with an on-package label or creating a symbol or electronic label that can be scanned with a smartphone or directs consumers to “more food information.” However, if there is an electronic label, it must take consumers directly to information on genetically modified ingredients.

Should the bill pass the full Senate, it will also have to be run through the U.S. House, which passed a bill last July that barred states from creating GMO labeling laws but established a voluntary labeling system.