



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Make Our Food Safe Coalition Statement on Recent Lettuce Recall Due to *E. Coli* Contamination

WASHINGTON, D.C. – We are in the midst of yet another food recall, this one for bagged romaine lettuce contaminated with a dangerous strain of *E. coli*. The produce at issue has been linked to 19 confirmed cases of infection and 10 probable cases, resulting in 12 hospitalizations. We wonder how many more recalls it will take before the Senate will bring S. 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, to a vote.

Since the U.S. House of Representatives passed its food-safety bill last July, there have been over 60 separate recalls of FDA-regulated products that were potentially contaminated with harmful or deadly bacteria. The lettuce recall is just one more reminder that the nation's food-safety system is in desperate need of repair and the pending legislation would provide urgently needed reform.

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Major public health, consumer and food safety groups have launched the Make Our Food Safe Campaign (www.makeourfoodsafecampaign.org), including the American Public Health Association, Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention, Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Food & Water Watch, National Consumers League, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Safe Tables Our Priority, and Trust for America's Health.