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S. 510 is good for farms and food processors, both big and small

With every foodborne-illness outbreak, consumer confidence in the food supply has decreased and food processors and farmers – big and small, conventional and organic – have suffered significant economic losses.

S. 510 is aimed at protecting farmers from significant economic losses by:

- Directing FDA to establish produce safety standards that will help minimize foodborne-illness outbreaks linked to fruits and vegetables and increase consumer confidence.
- Establishing a pilot program to develop a product-tracing system for produce, which will ultimately enable FDA to more quickly identify the source of an outbreak and narrow the scope of recalls, so that uninvolved products are readily identified.
- Providing FDA with mandatory recall authority, which will more quickly remove contaminated produce from the market, and reduce the cloud of uncertainty over safe, products in the same food class as the recalled item that are not implicated.

Members of our coalition support amending S. 510 to include Senator Stabenow's bill (S. 2758), which would provide training and technical assistance grants to small farmers and processors to help them meet the requirements of the new law.

S. 510 recognizes the importance of small, sustainable and organic farms by:

- Directing FDA to ensure that its produce regulations do not conflict with and are not duplicative of organic requirements. (This was added by an amendment in Committee)
- Requiring FDA to consider the impact of any produce regulations on small and diversified farms, as well as on conservation and the environment. (Also added in Committee)

The Make Our Food Safe Coalition opposes any amendments to S. 510 that would completely exempt any farmers or food processors from the food-safety requirements of the law. Food should be safe no matter what the source.

Our coalition supports implementing regulations that are scale appropriate and sufficiently flexible to reflect the nature and size of a farm or a food processor.