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NOPA APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE AND ACCURATE FOOD LABELING ACT

*Legislation Will Protect Food Producers and Consumers by
Eliminating Confusion and Advancing Food Safety*

Washington, D.C., March 25, 2015—The National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA), while urging the Congress to act swiftly, praised the introduction of the bipartisan Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act, which would establish a federal standard for the safety and labeling of food and beverage products made with genetically modified ingredients (GMOs).

NOPA believes that the commercial biotechnology-derived seed products currently on the market have allowed growers to increase crop yield, decrease crop inputs and increase the use of conservation tillage. These technological advances have been successful for U.S. growers, processors, exporters and consumers. Going forward, NOPA supports the use of balanced biotechnology policies to ensure the success of trade and processing of grains and oilseeds and their derivative products.

NOPA applauds Representatives Mike Pompeo (R-KS) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) for introducing this bipartisan legislation and for their work on behalf of U.S. farmers, processors, food producers and consumers. Tom Hammer, NOPA's President, stated: "As world population increases and arable land and water become limited, the responsible use of agricultural biotechnology will continue to play an important role in supporting the global food system and helping to meet the needs of the global food/feed supply chain."

The reasonable federal solution on GMO labeling, embodied in this legislation, will bolster consumer confidence in the safety of American food by affirming the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) sole authority in food safety and labeling decisions. Hammer said that "biotechnology-derived seed products are perfectly safe and are critical to the production of higher yielding crops that more easily withstand drought and allow farmers to use fewer chemicals—which is better for everyone in the food chain from farm to fork as well as more sustainable for the environment."

The federal GMO labeling solution provided in this legislation will protect consumers and ensure the safety of food ingredients made through the use of modern agricultural biotechnology. Such a federal solution is urgently needed to protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety:

Eliminate Confusion: Remove the confusion and uncertainty of a 50-state patchwork of GMO safety and labeling laws and affirm the FDA as the nation's authority for the use and labeling of genetically modified food ingredients.

Advance Food Safety: Require the FDA to conduct a safety review of all new GMO traits before they are introduced into commerce. FDA will be empowered to mandate the labeling of GMO food

ingredients if the agency determines there is a health, safety or nutrition issue with GMO technology.

Inform Consumers: The FDA will establish federal standards for companies that want to voluntarily label their product for the absence-of or presence-of GMO food ingredients so that consumers clearly understand their choices in the marketplace.

Swift passage of the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act is an essential step to restoring certainty to the American farmers, processors and producers who provide food and feed products to the consumers by eliminating the risks posed by an expensive patchwork of labeling laws. “The entire U.S. grain and oilseed value chain works extremely hard to ensure that America’s families have access to safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fuel,” said Hammer.

NOPA is a member of The Coalition for Safe Affordable Food (CFSAF), which is dedicated to providing policymakers, media, consumers and all stakeholders with the facts about ingredients grown through genetically modified (GM) technology. The Coalition is also an advocate for common sense policy solutions that will only further enhance the safety of the GM crops and protect the vital role they play in today’s modern global food supply chain. The Coalition is comprised of American farmers and representatives from a diverse group of industry and non-governmental organizations.

For more information about GMOs and the need for a federal labeling standard, visit www.CFSAF.org.

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Established in 1929, the National Oilseed Processors Association’s mission is to assist the U.S. soybean, canola, flaxseed, sunflower seed and safflower seed processing industries to be the most competitive and efficient in the world by utilizing the combined expertise, knowledge and resources of its members to foster market- and science-based policies. NOPA represents 13 member companies who process over 1.6 billion bushels of oilseeds annually at 63 plants in 19 states, including 57 plants that process soybeans.