

Coalition for Uniformity in Food Ingredient Standards

August 21, 2019

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Smith, and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

We are writing to ask for your support for **Section 358, Clarification of Food Ingredient Requirements for Food or Beverages Provided by the Department of Defense**. The provision is in Senate-passed *S.1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020* and would establish a formal process through which public stakeholders would be permitted to provide input on the formation of food ingredient policy at the Department of Defense (DOD).

The Coalition believes that it is imperative that the DOD establish a public stakeholder engagement process when it prepares to make a determination about food ingredients. In 2017, the Department issued a notice that several commonly used, generally recognized as safe, ingredients would be prohibited in products used by DOD. The decision did not fully consider the consequences on manufacturers, supplier, farmers, federal nutrition programs and other consumers.

Section 358 provides transparency through a simple comment period that informs DOD about the impact ingredient-level decisions have on manufacturers and ingredient suppliers. The American food and agriculture supply chain is complex and these decisions should be formed with input from ingredient suppliers, manufacturers and relevant civilian food and nutrition experts such as the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and Department of Agriculture.

Early engagement with industry and federal subject matter experts will improve policy outcomes and preserve departmental resources. In turn, the food and agriculture supply chain can meet the DOD's food ingredient requirements with new, alternative ingredients and innovative products.

As both chambers resolve the differences between their respective version of the NDAA, the Coalition respectfully requests that Section 358 be preserved the final text.

The Coalition looks forward to working with the Committees to create an ingredient policy making process that is transparent, predictable and benefits our military.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association

American Frozen Food Institute

American Herbal Products Association

American Pulse Association

American Soybean Association

Association for Dressings and Sauces

Corn Refiners Association

Grocery Manufacturers Association

Institute for Shortening and Edible Oils

Juice Products Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Barley Growers Association

National Restaurant Association

National Sunflower Association

North American Meat Institute

Soyfoods Association of North America

The Glutamate Association

US Canola Association

US Dry Bean Council

USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council