

April 12, 2019

Senator Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sinema:

We, the undersigned organizations, are deeply concerned about the growing number of state-mandated warning labels and disclosure requirements being imposed on a range of consumer products. We request your assistance and leadership on federal legislation to address this growing patchwork of state laws that will continue confusing the consumer and directly impact interstate commerce.

Our respective industries are committed to providing meaningful transparency to consumers. However, states and localities have either implemented or are readily proposing dozens of ingredient disclosure and/or warning label requirements related to food, beverages, agriculture, and other consumer products that may be based on limited or insufficient information.

States do not uniformly have the scientific capacity and robust infrastructure to ensure adherence to the highest standards of scientific integrity and risk analysis when establishing their own content disclosure or ingredient warning label requirements. These state labeling proposals and enacted legislation especially affect industries that have a significant economic footprint in Arizona, including the manufacturing, agriculture and food and beverage industries.

For example, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently blocked a 2015 San Francisco ordinance that requires advertisers of sugar-sweetened beverages to post health warnings, arguing that the warning conflicts with statements by the Food and Drug Administration. Despite this ruling, similar proposals have been introduced in Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and Baltimore, Maryland. Legislation has also been introduced in other states that would impose additional labeling and disclosure requirements on a variety of products, from cell phones to multivitamins.

Now is the time to establish a federal, science-based solution. State- and locally-mandated labeling schemes that require unjustified warning labels on every day products (including caffeine, aloe vera and clothing) damage consumer confidence, hinder interstate commerce, and often disparage new science and technology.

This important issue needs a timely solution before a patchwork of labeling schemes causes additional burdens for Arizona farmers, small businesses, retailers and manufacturers. On behalf of a coalition representing over 90 national, state and local organizations, we urge you to be the lead Democratic cosponsor on a bill that will establish a federal standard for labeling and disclosure requirements. Such a solution will ensure that consumers will have appropriate, meaningful information based on a credible, scientific standard when making purchasing decisions.

Sincerely,

Adhesive and Sealant Council

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

American Agri-Women
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Brush Manufacturers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Cleaning Institute
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Cattle Feeders
Arizona Farm and Ranch Group
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Arizona Food Marketing Alliance
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Auto Care Association
Bashas' Inc.
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Calorie Control Council
Can Manufacturers Institute
Consumer Technology Association
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Council for Responsible Nutrition
EPS Industry Alliance
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Flavor & Extract Manufacturers Association
Flexible Vinyl Alliance
Food Marketing Institute
Foodservice Packaging Institute
Fragrance Creators Association
Frozen Potato Products Institute
Gemini Shippers Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance
Home Furnishings Association
Independent Bakers Association
Infant Nutrition Council of America
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils
International Bottled Water Association
International Dairy Foods Association
International Food Additives Council
Juice Products Association
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association
Naphthalene Council
National Association of Chemical Distributors

National Association of Convenience Stores	Plastics Pipe Institute
National Association of Manufacturers	PVC Pipe Association
National Candle Association	Resilient Floor Covering Institute
National Cattlemen's Beef Association	Retail Industry Leaders Association
National Corn Growers Association	Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association
National Cotton Council	Simmons Wood Products, Inc.
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives	Single Ply Roofing Industry, Inc.
National Council of Textile Organizations	SNAC International
National Grocers Association	Specialty Graphic Imaging Association
National Milk Producers Federation	Sugar Association
National Pork Producers Council	The Chlorine Institute
National Potato Council	The Vision Council
National Retail Federation	Travel Goods Association
National Sunflower Association	Treated Wood Council
Natural Products Association	United Fresh Produce Association
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Inc.	U.S. Canola Association
Pavement Coatings Technology Council	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Plastics Industry Association	Vinyl Institute
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association	Western Growers Association