



**2010 ASTA Legislative/Regulatory Meeting**  
Renaissance M Street Hotel  
Washington, DC  
September 29

# Welcome

**Roger Lawrence**  
ASTA President

2010 ASTA Legislative/Regulatory Meeting



# Meeting Overview

**Susan Brown, Chair**

**Government Relations Committee**

# Legislative Overview

**Julia Bellinger, ASTA**

**Government Relations Director**

**2010 ASTA Legislative/Regulatory Meeting**



# Goals for ASTA's Legislative/Regulatory Program

- Increase ASTA's impact on legislation and regulations
- Provide timely and pertinent public policy information to ASTA members so they can comply with new laws and prepare for future laws and regulations.



# Legislative and Regulatory Resources for Members

- ASTA Website  
[www.astaspice.org](http://www.astaspice.org)
- ASTA's legislative/regulatory newsletter:  
*ASTA Advocate*
- Regulatory/Legislative Workshop
- Government Relations Director  
[jbelling@astaspice.org](mailto:jbelling@astaspice.org)
- Government Relations Committee



# Increase ASTA's Outreach

- Work with other organizations that share the same position on an issue -
  - **GMA Food Safety Coalition**
  - **Lacey Act Coalition**
- Develop strong relationships with policy makers at federal agencies and on Capitol Hill.
- Communicate ASTA's position to decision makers via letters to Capitol Hill, submit comments to agencies and at congressional hearings, meet with decision makers.
- Result: ASTA's position will be considered when regulatory/legislative policy is developed and policy makers have more insight into our industry.



# Food Safety Bills-House

- The House of Representatives passed a food safety bill over a year ago
- Some provisions are problematic including:
  - Traceability
  - Positive lab results to FDA
  - Administrative detention authority expansion



# Food Safety Bills- Senate

- The full Senate has not yet passed a food safety bill, but one has passed the Committee.
- Overall, ASTA prefers the Senate bill.
- Once the Senate passes a bill, the House and Senate must get together and work out a compromise.



# ASTA Government Relations Committee

**Susan Brown, Chair**  
**McCormick & Co.**

**Vinayak Narain**  
**Olam Americas Inc**

**John Doisy**  
**Sensient Dehydrated Flavors**

**Randy Ritchie**  
**ConAgra Food Ingredients**

**Ron Elton**  
**John H. Elton, Inc.**

**Manoj Ruparelia**  
**Mincing Overseas Spice Company**

**Kerri Goad**  
**Kalustyan Corporation**

**Whitney Sayia**  
**A.A. Sayia & Co., Inc.**

**Phil Kaczmariski**  
**KALSEC Inc.**

**Tim Sonntag**  
**Wixon, Inc.**

**Dennis Kolsun**  
**H.J. Heinz, Inc.**

**Floyd Stone**  
**Griffith Laboratories**



# GR Committee Accomplishments

- Meet with federal agency and congressional staff to discuss issues of concern to ASTA members, such as food safety bills and noxious weed/seed eradication alternatives.
- Develop ASTA positions for Board approval on legislative and regulatory issues.
- Help develop advocacy strategy for key issues, such as Capitol Hill “fly – ins”.
- Help develop letters and comments to send to Capitol Hill and federal agencies.



# Examples of Recent Advocacy

- The Government Relations Committee met with USDA to discuss alternative eradication methods for noxious weed/seed.
- ASTA is working with USDA and the Lacey Act Coalition to ensure that ASTA members don't have to submit a declaration document when wild spices are imported.
- The Food Safety Coalition worked with Congress to lower food facility registration fees from \$1,000. per facility down to \$500 and modify traceability provision by requiring a pilot project and assessing the availability and feasibility of tracing technologies.





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