



AMERICAN SPICE TRADE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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November 18, 2019

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman - Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Committee
731 Senate Hart Building

The Honorable Mike Enzi.
Ranking Member - Health,
Education, Labor and
Pensions Committee
379 Senate Russell Building

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

The American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) is a trade association that represents the U.S. spice industry. It was founded in 1907 and represents the interests of approximately 180 members including companies that grow, dehydrate, and process spices. ASTA's members include U.S.-based agents, brokers, and importers, and companies based outside of the U.S. that grow spices and ship them to the U.S. and other companies associated with the U.S. spice industry. ASTA members manufacture and market the majority of spices sold in the U.S. at retail and to food processors. Food safety and clean, safe spices are the top priority of ASTA.

As the Senate considers S. 510, the "Food Safety Modernization Act," we have concerns with the amendment from Senators Tester and Hagan amendment, including the recent compromise, exempting small entities. We are opposed to exempting processors and producers based solely on size, location, and proximity to markets. To truly improve the safety of food, all entities must be included. Unfortunately, foodborne pathogens are found in both large and small facilities.

We urge the Senate to reject the modified Tester/Hagan provision as a part of S. 510.

Please contact me if you have questions. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Cheryl Deem
Executive Director