

Congressman: VT law will cause 'chaos', voluntary federal GMO labeling law needed

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In three weeks, the second-smallest state by population is set to create chaos in the U.S. food supply chain. Vermont's mandatory labeling law for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) takes effect on July 1, with Maine and Connecticut planning to follow suit.

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With science on the side of GMOs, Vermont's law is being sold as a boon for consumer choice. But the marketplace already incentivizes organic manufacturers to label their products, allowing consumers to discern which foods contain ingredients produced through biotechnology and make informed decisions about purchases.

To provide certainty for producers and consumers, we passed legislation in the House of Representatives that would establish uniform national standards for voluntary labeling. But action is needed from both houses of Congress before one state's mandatory labeling law disrupts food production for the entire country and beyond.

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America's producers can meet growing global demand for agriculture products, but only if we replace fads and fearmongering with science-based policies that support their efforts to provide high-quality, safe and affordable food.

[Editor's note: Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) is the founder and co-chairman of the Modern Agriculture Caucus.]

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