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Minnesota Farmers Union applauds leading companies in GMO labeling

St. Paul, MN (March 24, 2016) – Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) supports several large national food companies for their initiative to start GMO labeling before a Nationwide labeling law is or is not put into place.

July 1st of 2016 Vermont will become the first state to require mandatory GMO notification on package labels. Rhode Island is also currently debating whether or not to require food companies to label products that contain GM ingredients. The bill that is being discussed in Rhode Island would affect all raw and packed food products with genetically engineered ingredients. Maine and Connecticut have passed laws that require such labeling already.

The various laws that are already in place in these east coast states sets a precedent for food labeling all over the country,” stated MFU President, Doug Peterson “there are currently 64 other countries that already have mandatory GMO labeling and the Grocery Manufacturers Association already sells to these states and abides by these labeling laws, why should Americans have to be served any differently than these countries, when a number of us also want to know what is in our food.”

Leading companies such as General Mills, Kellogg/Mars, Whole Foods Market Inc, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Nestle and Campbell Soup Company have all begun labeling GMO ingredients in their food and beverages. General Mills stated it best when CEO & Executive Vice President, Jeff Harmening, stated “We can’t label our products for only one state without significantly driving up costs for our consumers, and we simply will not do that. The result: consumers all over the U.S. will soon begin seeing words legislated by the state of Vermont on the labels of many of their favorite General Mills products”.

MFU would like to express a thank you to our MN Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, for supporting actions and casting a negative vote to invoke cloture of the bill written by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairmen, Pat Roberts, to limit labeling of GM foods. Failure to invoke cloture means that the current version of the bill will not move forward at this time, but it could be re-worked and brought back up. MFU will continue to work with our Congressional delegation on this issue.

This bill would have blocked state laws that would require labels for GM foods and would set up a voluntary federal system of disclosure that could be mandatory if companies do not voluntarily label 70 percent of their products in a three year time period.

Minnesota Farmers Union—Standing for Agriculture, Fighting for Farmers (www.mfu.org).

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