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## **American Frozen Food Institute Urges FDA to Modify Food Safety Requirements for Warehouse Facilities**

**McLean, VA** – The American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) joined with a coalition of food groups on Friday in urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue modified food safety compliance requirements for warehouse facilities that store packaged foods not exposed to the environment, and for which existing food safety standards already apply.

AFFI and the coalition requested that FDA exempt warehouse facilities from onerous hazard analysis and preventive control requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). AFFI contends that FSMA's requirements are intended primarily for food production facilities, such as sanitation for food-contact surfaces and utensils, allergen controls, hygiene training and supplier verification activities.

"Food safety is the highest priority throughout the frozen food industry supply chain," said AFFI President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "The FSMA provisions requiring warehouse facilities that store packaged frozen foods to implement the same preventive controls required of food producers are overly burdensome, duplicative and unnecessary, and would lead to increased costs for the warehouse community and, ultimately, consumers."

FDA is permitted to exempt certain requirements of the new food safety law for facilities already subject to and compliant with other safety controls, such as good manufacturing practices. As such, the coalition asked FDA to exempt facilities solely engaged in the storage of packaged goods not exposed to the environment.

AFFI represents 500 members engaged in the production, storage and distribution of frozen food, including 85 members in the warehouse and warehouse supply community.

In addition to AFFI, the coalition includes the American Bakers Association, the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the International Bottled Water Association, the International Dairy Foods Association, the International Warehouse Logistics Association, the Peanut & Tree Nut Processors Association and the Snack Food Association.

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*The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry's behalf. More information can be found at [www.affi.com](http://www.affi.com).*