



# FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## House Passes Food Inspection Bill

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, August 4, 2009 - The House has passed a bill (HR 2749), empowering the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) to create new traceability requirements for the food supply chain and strengthen facility inspections.

Proponents of the bill point out the need for added regulation following high-profile recalls in recent years of tainted food products.

Opponents say that HR 2749 gives the FDA unprecedented power while significantly diminishing existing judicial restraints on actions taken by the agency. They further contend that the bill, as written, does not specifically direct regulation or resources to those areas of the food chain which are in the greatest need of attention: primarily the industrial food system and food imports.

Vicki Rolens, managing director of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT) says, "It is difficult to determine whether this bill represents good legislation or whether it's primarily the product of a 'turf war' between the FDA and the Department of Agriculture." She adds that passage was achieved only after a compromise agreement whereby most farms, livestock, poultry and feed grain would be exempted from the bill and would continue to be regulated by the Agricultural Department.

The bill passed the House on July 30, and was referred to Senate committee on August 3.

If you have an opinion or question about this legislation, contact your senator:

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

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This news release is issued as a service of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT). FACT was formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984, and currently serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site ([www.usafact.org](http://www.usafact.org)). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#), [scholarships](#) and [consumer information](#). FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.