



March 22, 2025

The Members of the Senate Committee on Finance

RE: Opposition to House Bill 1208

The Food Industry Safety Coalition is respectfully opposed to House Bill 1208. This legislation is unnecessary, may harm Maryland manufacturers and will cause confusion in the marketplace.

Collectively, we represent a broad section of America's food, beverage, and ingredient industries. Our members source, manufacture, distribute, and sell safe and wholesome products in Maryland and across the United States. The safety and quality of what we make is of the highest importance, and we share a commitment to a strong national food safety system.

HB 1208 prohibits the manufacture, distribution and sales of food products containing brominated vegetable oil (BVO), potassium bromate, propylparaben, and FD&C Red No.3.

The United States has one of the safest, most efficient, and affordable food systems in the world, and supports a nationwide approach to food ingredient safety that is grounded in fact-based science, and which provides consistency for industry. In fact, The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has already taken steps to no longer allow the use of FD&C Red No. 3 and BVO. There is no need for Maryland to regulate products containing these ingredients.

HB 1208 supplants the authority of the FDA to regulate the safety of the American food supply and contributes to an inconsistent, state-by-state approach to food safety. Creating two different regulatory standards, one enforced by Maryland and one by the federal government, HB 1208 would inject superfluous costs into the food supply chain for Marylanders.

The proposed legislation not only prohibits sales of products allowed in surrounding states, it prohibits Maryland based companies from manufacturing products for sales throughout the world.

For the sake of scientific integrity and national consistency, we request your opposition to this bill and allow the federal agencies with the expertise and authority, to continue regulating the safety of our food supply based on rigorous, science-based standards.

Rather than creating a patchwork of inconsistent state regulations, we encourage you to urge Congress to provide the FDA with the necessary funding and resources to accelerate its review of food additives while maintaining the highest scientific standards.