

**FLORIDA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION  
AND FLORIDA TOMATO EXCHANGE  
STATEMENT REGARDING  
THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT**

The Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (FFVA) and the Florida Tomato Exchange (FTE) appreciate the efforts of both the House and Senate to address the urgent issue of food safety for American consumers and producers.

FFVA and FTE remain strong proponents for a scientific risk-based approach to enhancing the safety of our food supply. Additionally as FFVA's and FTE's membership include many small producers, we have consistently advocated for a scalable food safety system, with appropriate technical resources available to enable disadvantaged entities to comply with federal food safety regulations.

However, the inclusion of language in the Senate-passed version of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA, S. 510) unfortunately weakens the safety net that the bill intends to provide. That language allows exemptions to certain farms based not on science-based risk, but rather on the gross sales of an organization and the distribution area of its products. These distinctions are made despite the fact that the size of a farming operation or the location of its customers bear no relationship to the risk posed by food born pathogens.

Therefore, FFVA and FTE respectfully request that the House and Senate convene a formal conference on the FSMA and that conferees eliminate these exemptions in any conference report. Absent such action, FFVA and FTE recommend that the House oppose S. 510.