



American Bakers Association

The Voice of the Baking Industry Since 1897

Robb MacKie, President & CEO

rmackie@americanbakers.org

December 11, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: ABA Key Vote – Support Passage of Omnibus Spending Package

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The American Bakers Association (ABA) is writing to urge you and your fellow Members to vote “yes” on the Omnibus Spending bill. The language agreed upon by both the House and Senate contains several provisions that deliver relief from unnecessary burdens to the wholesale baking industry. Including;

- Granting more flexibility to schools in order to meet whole grain standards in the USDA’s School Meals Program;
- Instructing the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee— charged with making policy recommendations to it and the USDA — focuses its nutrition and dietary recommendations “based on sound nutrition science.”;
- Freezing sodium recommendations at the July 1 levels, until science shows they should be adjusted to benefit children’s health;
- Providing \$2.7 billion for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- Imposing a stay on the new Hours of Service, 1 am – 5 am provision of the *34-hour restart rule*, as well as the *168-hour rule* for one year to allow for the appropriate safety studies to be conducted; and
- Reforming pension polices to allow deeply troubled pension plans to make market-based adjustments, thus saving and securing benefits for all participants within such plans.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these extremely critical issues for bakers. This will be a key vote for ABA.

The American Bakers Association (ABA) is the Washington D.C.-based voice of the wholesale baking industry. Since 1897, ABA has represented the interests of bakers before the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and international regulatory authorities. ABA advocates on behalf of more than 700 baking facilities and baking company suppliers. ABA members produce bread, rolls, crackers, bagels, sweet goods, tortillas and many other wholesome, nutritious, baked products for America’s families. The baking industry generates more than \$102 billion in economic activity annually and employs more than 706,000 highly skilled people.

Sincerely,

Robb MacKie