



American Bakers Association
The Voice of the Baking Industry Since 1897



www.americanbakers.org

ABA 2015 Top Policy Priorities

Nutrition & Wellness - ABA continues to lead the grain chain on key nutrition policy issues for the industry. As review of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines is finalized, ABA is working to ensure that current bread and grain food recommendations are maintained. Additionally, ABA is an active national strategic partner with USDA's MyPlate education and messaging activities for bread and grain-based foods. ABA has been successful in obtaining permanent flexibility for grain maximums applied to USDA's school breakfast and lunch programs' standards. ABA is also leading a food industry effort on strategy and response to the pending FDA nutrition facts panel revision proposals released in 2014.

Food Safety - ABA is leading industry implementation strategies for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). These include an exemption for low risk ambient temperature warehouses from costly preventive control requirements as part of the preventive control proposal. The inclusion of ABA's exemption saves both bakers (\$10-20,000 per depot facility) and FDA, allowing the Agency to focus on higher risk facilities.

The Workforce Gap - The workforce gap in the baking industry continues to increase. A comprehensive talent management plan is needed to attract and retain critical talent. ABA is leading the way in addressing skills gap concerns, not only by defining the scope of the gap, but working to find solution to fill the critical void in the number of skilled employees.

Biotech Labeling – Bakers need a federal legislative solution to biotech labeling that will protect consumers by eliminating confusion and advancing food safety. ABA is a member of the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food and supports the bi-partisan bill HR 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 introduced in the 114th Congress. This legislation is a federal solution that will protect consumers and provide food and beverage companies with a FDA established uniform set of standards for food products with genetically modified ingredients. A federal solution will eliminate confusion from a patchwork of state gmo safety and labeling laws and affirms FDA as the nation's foremost authority for the use of labeling of genetically modified food ingredients.

Labor and Workforce Issues - ABA is working closely with the 114th Congress to counter the National Labor Relations Board's activist agenda. The NLRB is attempting to dramatically prohibit employer bargaining rights and election timelines. In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor may pursue regulations that would make it extremely difficult to utilize outside counsel in regards to employee communications. ABA continues to be a strong advocate for the industry.

Hours of Service Regulations – Successful ABA pressure led to a one year suspension of two onerous HOS provisions which limited the times drivers were able to be on the road to make deliveries. ABA is working with the trucking industry and members of Congress to ensure that these provisions are permanently removed from the Hours of Service Rules. Additionally, ABA is leading the charge on filing for an exemption for bakers during holidays and natural disasters from a rule requiring short haul drivers to take 30 minutes of rest during an 8 hour shift. This provision does not accurately reflect the needs of bakers during high-volume demand seasons, and dangerously requires drivers to park in unsafe neighborhoods, negatively impacting driver safety.

Infrastructure – Current funding for infrastructure development and maintenance projects is set to expire in May of 2015. ABA is working towards the inclusion of the \$.50 cent per gallon Alternative fuel excise tax credit and to protect the needs of the baking industry while congress ensures an adequate spending level for infrastructure development.

Sustainability - The ENERGY STAR® Challenge for the baking industry highlights ABA's sustainable development efforts. Customers and consumers have placed an increased emphasis on corporate citizenship and operational efficiency. ABA continues to lead and partner with its suppliers and the grain chain to develop sustainability tools for the baking industry.

Sugar Program Reform - The current U.S. sugar program costs bakers and consumers upwards of \$4 billion dollars annually in higher sugar costs and has led to a loss of more than 127,000 U.S. jobs between 1997 and 2011. Sugar policy restricts imports that can lead to dangerously low domestic supplies and a volatile market. ABA will continue to work with Congress to create a sugar program that will be fair to bakers, consumers and sugar growers.

Volatility in the Commodity Futures Market - Commodity market volatility remains an issue due to the influence of index funds in the markets. ABA played an integral part in passing regulations that impose contract limits on index funds. While these regulations are currently held up in the courts, ABA will continue to work with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to work towards imposing position limits.

Safety Recognition Program – In order to increase workplace safety awareness and emphasize the importance of employee safety, ABA is working to develop a safety recognition program for bakers that highlights bakers achieving a high level of safety performance.