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Representative Smola Rallies House Members in Support of GMO Labeling Legislation

BOSTON – State Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) delivered a letter to House of Representatives Speaker Robert DeLeo expressing strong support for favorable action on genetically modified organism (GMO) labeling legislation. The letter, which was drafted by Representative Smola and Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst), garnered a large majority of support in the House with 110 members adding their signatures as co-signers of the initiative.

"I am overwhelmed with the number of legislators that are partnering with me to advance GMO labeling legislation," said Representative Smola. "Support for GMO labeling is growing rapidly and I am optimistic that we can develop meaningful standards that will serve as a model for other states in the country."

GMOs are plants or animals created through the gene splicing techniques of genetic engineering. This technology merges DNA from different species, creating unstable combinations of genes that cannot occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding. Representative Smola has led the effort on Beacon Hill to adopt GMO labeling standards in Massachusetts.

"It is my strong belief that people have the right to know what is in their food," said Representative Smola. "Labeling foods that have been genetically engineered will both provide greater awareness and educate consumers."

Presently, there are no requirements for GMO labeling in Massachusetts. Representative Smola has been filing legislation to require GMO labeling for a number of years and, recently, public support for this initiative has increased dramatically.

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