



February 26, 2007

The Honorable Mary Ann Handley  
Senate Chair, Joint Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: Senate Bill 258 – Trans Fat Ban

Dear Chairwoman Handley:

The Grocery Manufacturers/Food Products Association (GMA/FPA<sup>1</sup>) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 258.

GMA/FPA shares the author's concern for public health. In fact, through product reformulation and development of suitable alternatives by the food and beverage industry, trans fat in the food supply is decreasing.

However, to improve diet and health, and reduce cardiovascular disease, attention is required on dietary intake of *both* saturated and trans fat. Forcing the removal of all artificial trans fats from restaurant foods in Connecticut by "July 1, 2008" as proposed in SB 258, could result in an increase of saturated fat in the food supply as there is a very limited supply of trans fat free alternative oils.

The *2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and other health authorities advise the public to focus on reducing overall intake of both saturated and trans fats as part of a nutritionally adequate diet and healthy lifestyle. And, research conducted in 2003 by the International Food Information Council found that overemphasizing a particular type of fat, such as trans fat, led consumers to disregard other components of the nutrition label such as saturated fat, cholesterol, and total fat content. The goal should be that dietary intake should reduce trans fat with no increase in the total of saturated plus prior trans fat level.

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<sup>1</sup> The Grocery Manufacturers/Food Products Association (GMA/FPA) represents the world's leading food, beverage and consumer products companies. The association promotes sound public policy, champions initiatives that increase productivity and growth and helps to protect the safety and security of the food supply through scientific excellence. The GMA/FPA board of directors is comprised of fifty-two chief executive officers from the Association's member companies. The \$2.1 trillion food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry employs 14 million workers, and contributes over \$1 trillion in added value to the nation's economy.

Chairwoman Handley  
SB 258 – Trans Fat Ban  
2/26/2007  
Page 2

The collaboration between agriculture and food manufacturing has led to significant reductions of trans fat in food products over the past several years without a significant increase in saturated fat intake. However, the pace of future reformulations depends in large part upon the commercial availability of alternative fats and oils as well as the time needed to make and test product reformulations. Planting, harvesting, and processing new crops for fats and oils will take several years to meet the production demand of the entire food industry. We estimate that appropriate quantities of oils and fats will not be commercially available until late 2009 or 2010.

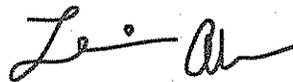
GMA/FPA urges the committee to consider the studied action taken by Los Angeles, California and Multnomah County, Oregon (Portland). These two jurisdictions are the first to fully review the consequences of the New York City Board of Health ban, the agriculture and supply realities and the bans' unintended consequences. Los Angeles Policy makers decided upon a voluntary incentive program that will help phase out the use of trans fats in restaurant and foodservice locations. Portland officials decided upon a program to educate the public about trans fats. This approach allows for the flexibility needed to address the presence of trans fat in the food supply.

GMA/FPA urges the Committee to vote NO on SB 258. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Patricia Verduin, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief Science Officer

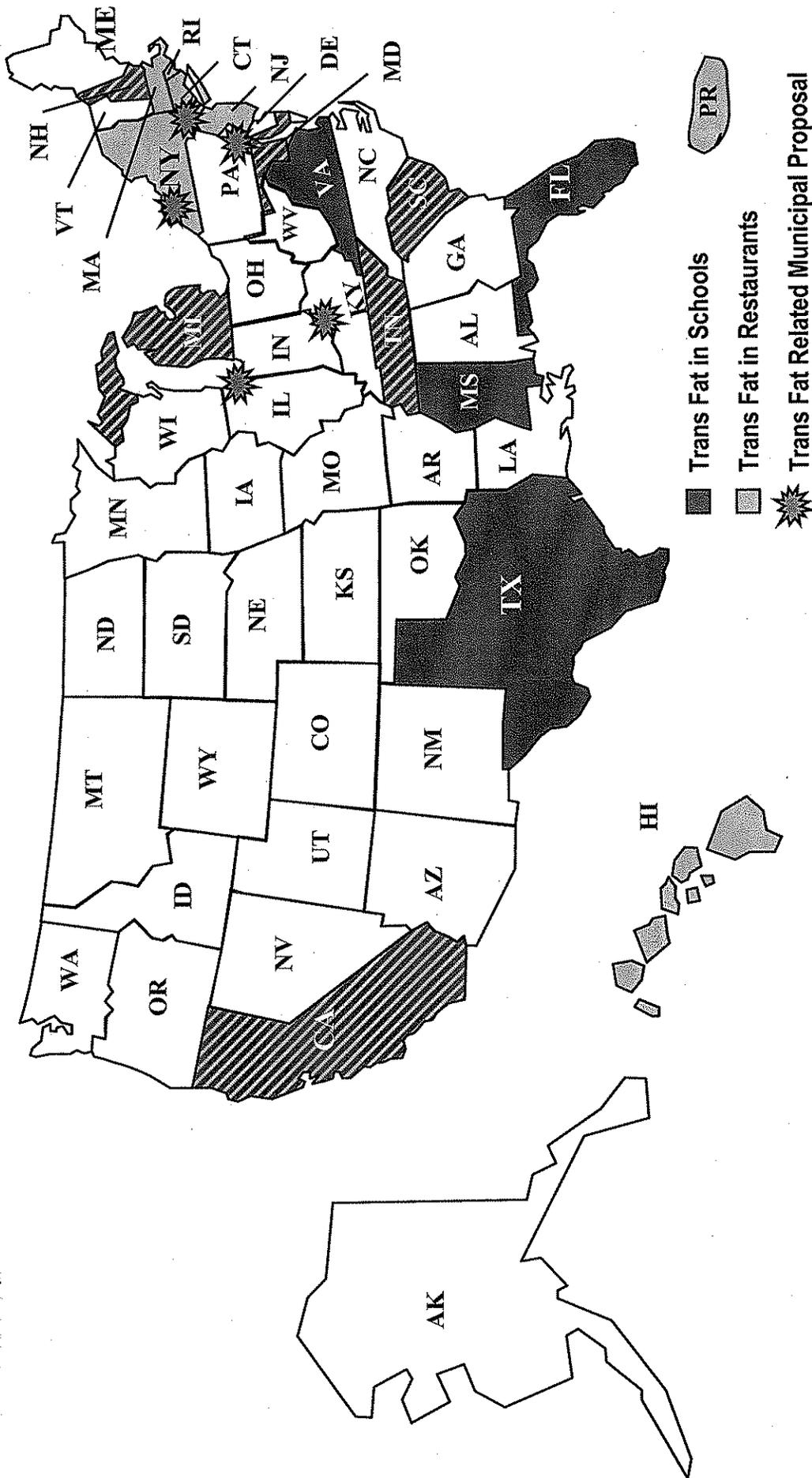


Lorin Alusic  
Director,  
State Affairs



# 2007 Trans Fat Activity

As of 2/12/07



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## **BANS ON TRANS FATS UNNECESSARY AND UNFEASIBLE**

Since January 2006, the Food and Drug Administration has required food manufacturers to include the amount of trans fat on the nutrition label. The food industry takes concerns about dietary fat seriously, particularly with regard to trans and saturated fat. Because of industry efforts to address the presence of trans fat through product reformulation and development of suitable alternatives, the amount of trans fat in the food supply is decreasing. Today, most food categories include trans fat free alternatives.

However, recent actions and pending proposals to prohibit the use of trans fat-containing oils and foods presents critical problems for the food manufacturing and food service industries. Most current proposals suggest a ban of trans fat by July, 2007. This is an impossible timeline as the current and near-future supply of alternative healthier oils available to the food industry is not sufficient enough to replace all trans fat oils.

Unrealistic timelines to ban trans fat products could have significant unintended consequences on health. Current proposals could result in an increase of product prices, an increase in the use of saturated fat and other ingredients not in the best interest of consumers and be detrimental to consumer acceptance of existing brands, adversely affecting flavor, appearance, or functionality.

Although some of the larger, well known, international restaurant chains have already begun to eliminate trans fats, it must be noted that these companies have significant resources, access to cutting edge innovation, and flexibility that many more of the medium sized and smaller restaurant and food services companies do not. In addition, as some of the larger corporations eliminate trans fats, the supply of alternative oils will quickly wane.

If proposals to reduce and ban trans fats move forward, GMA/FPA strongly recommends a phase in over time with a completion date of 2010. (See oil supply data, following pages).

## Trans Fat Alternatives

- Existing naturally stable oils
  - Palm, palm kernel, coconut, corn, cottonseed, high oleic sunflower, peanut, high oleic canola, low linolenic soyConcerns: (1) saturated fat levels of foods will increase with some oils (palm and coconut)  
(2) high demand for limited supplies (e.g., peanut, corn, cottonseed, sunflower oils)
- Interesterified blends of oils (customized melt points of oil/fat)
- Trait-enhanced oilseeds <sup>1</sup>
- Modified processing techniques (modified hydrogenation results in lower trans fats)
- Gelling/thickening agents (thickening of gravies, sauces, puddings)

## Oils Subject to Replacement

- 7-8 billion lbs. of partially hydrogenated oil (mostly soy)
- 4 billion lbs – "easy to pick fruit" (light to moderate frying, snack foods)
- 4 billion lbs. – "harder to reach fruit" (heavy-duty frying, baking applications)

## Trait-enhanced Oils

- Favorably regarded by many due to natural stability and minimal processing required
- Costs likely to decrease as commercial availability increases
- Able to be procured from widely available sources (soy, canola)

## Acreage and Amount Estimates of Trait-enhanced Oils<sup>2</sup>

### Low linolenic acid soybeans (1-3% linolenic)

	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Oil Amount</u>
<u>2006</u>	740,000	370 million lbs.
<u>2007</u>	2,580,000	1.25 billion lbs.

### High Oleic Canola (75% oleic)

	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Oil Amount</u>
<u>2006</u>	1,500,000	720 million lbs.
<u>2007</u>	2,000,000	900 million lbs.

<sup>1</sup> Trait-enhanced - Favorably regarded by many due to natural stability and minimal processing required

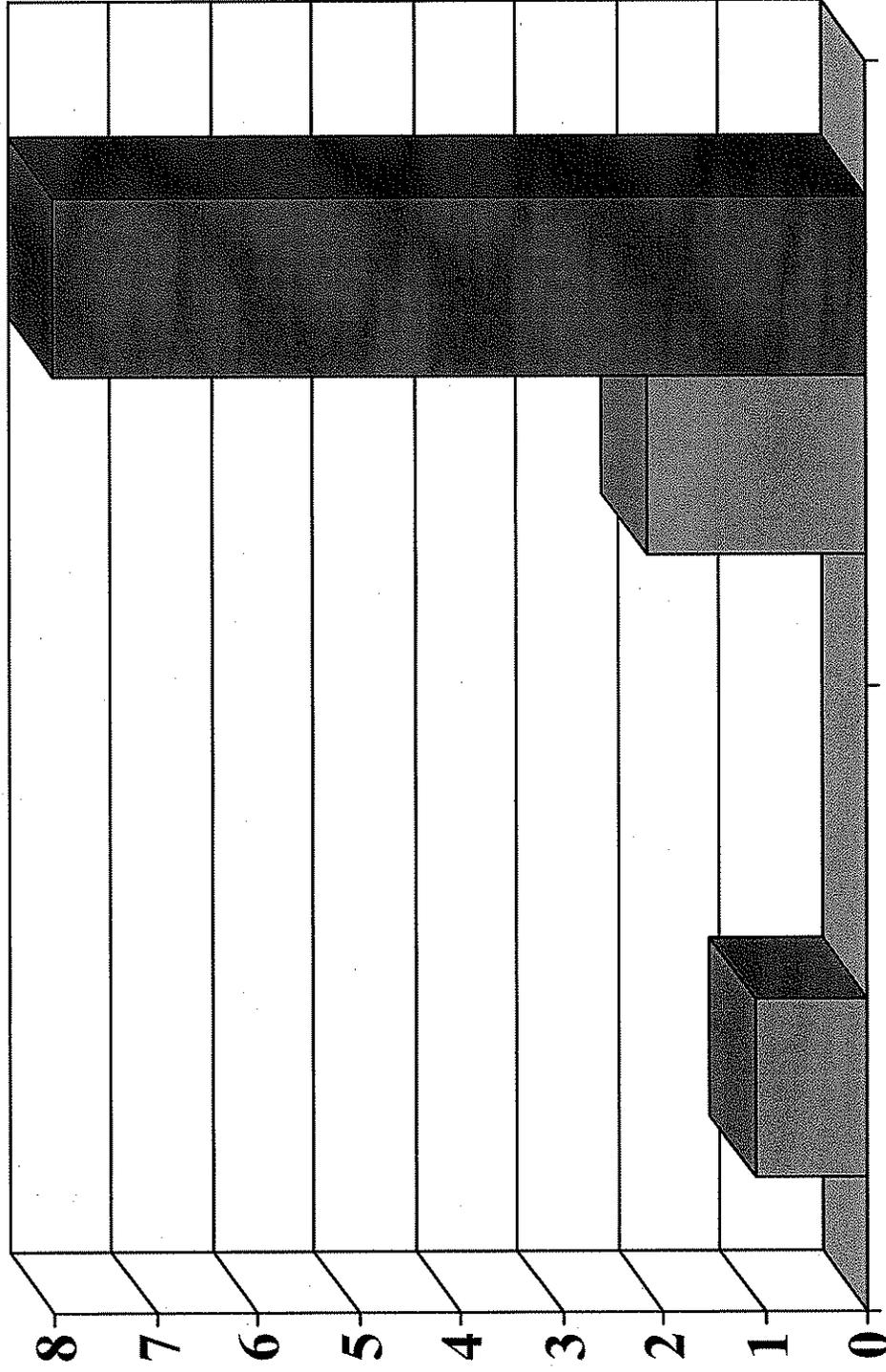
<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on aggregate of available public information on crop acreage planting and information from GMA/FPA oilseed producers and processors, January 2007.

### Supply and demand of trait-enhanced oils (2007)

	<u>Supply</u>	<u>Demand</u>
Soy	1.25 billion lbs.	
Canola	<u>.90 billion lbs.</u>	
Total:	2.15 billion lbs.	8 billion lbs. = 6 billion lb. SHORTFALL

### Factors that can affect Increased Acreage

- Acceptance by farmers  
adequate premiums: \$0.40/bushel for soy?  
\$1.00/bushel for canola?
- Short crop due to weather?
- Economic comparison to other crops (e.g. corn for ethanol)
- Yields of low linolenic soy and high oleic canola compared to other varieties
- Summary: many factors affect enhanced trait oilseed crop plantings



2007

2006



Supply of Trait-Enhanced Oils



Expected Demand for Trait-Enhanced Oils

(In Billion Tons of Oil)