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House of Representatives
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Opening Statement
Ranking Member Jim Jordan

Domestic Policy Subcommittee Hearing on
“Examining the Impact of Leafy Greens Marketing Agreements”

July 29, 2009

Thank you, Chairman Kucinich, for holding this hearing to examine the impact of leafy green marketing agreements. Most importantly, we need to have a food supply that is safe. Americans should be able to feel confident that the produce they buy at the grocery store or that is served to them at restaurants will not make them sick. Leafy green marketing agreements, such as the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, or CALGMA, may be an effective way to ensure safer produce. However, additional guidelines and regulations may be overly burdensome to some farmers, especially small or family owned farms. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about their experiences with the marketing agreements.

The FDA and USDA also play key roles in food safety and agricultural marketing, and I am interested to hear how these roles may change if a leafy greens marketing agreement is made national. Additionally, I hope that our witnesses can discuss any implications H.R. 2749, the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009, which we are voting on today, may have on the leafy greens industry and specifically CALGMA.

Again, I look forward to examining the pros and cons of making national the California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement, and thank our witnesses for taking the time to testify today.