

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Gov. Shumlin Thanks SumOFUs for Food Fight Fund Support

Gov. Peter Shumlin today gave congratulations and thanks to SumOfUs and its generous members for their support of the Vermont Food Fight Fund. The fund has received over \$420,000 in donations to help the state defend its recently enacted law to require labeling of genetically-engineered food.

The state was recently handed a preliminary victory in the fight when U.S. District Court Judge Christina Reiss rejected efforts from the big-food industry to prevent the labeling law from taking effect. The injunction request was denied last week, but multiple lawsuits are still ahead of us. "I am so pleased with the efforts of groups like SumOfUs and thrilled that our Food Fight Fund has exceeded \$420,000. Donations have come in from across the globe to help defend this first-in-the-nation, common-sense labeling requirement. Consumers have a right to know what's in their food," said Governor Shumlin.

The governor signed the bill requiring labeling of packaged foods produced with genetically-modified ingredients into law one year ago today on May 8, 2014, and it will take effect on July 1, 2016. Maine and Connecticut have also passed labeling laws, but their enactment is contingent upon surrounding states doing the same. Food manufacturers have challenged Vermont's law in court and legal proceedings are under way. "This food fight is bigger than Vermont," said Governor Shumlin. "While we are a small state, if our law is ruled unconstitutional, it likely would preclude similar laws from taking effect in other states. Meanwhile a victory here would encourage other states to follow our lead, allowing the United States to finally implement sensible labeling laws already successfully in place in dozens of other countries worldwide. I thank supporters and encourage all to join the food fight today."

Visit www.foodfightfundvt.org for more information and to make a donation. Please help us win this food fight!