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**Grocery Manufacturers Association Applauds APEC and World Bank Joint
Commitment to Scale Up Food Safety Capacity Building**

***APEC and World Bank Memorandum of Understanding to Expand
Food Safety Training and Network of Experts***

WASHINGTON, DC – At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum meetings being held this week in Big Sky, Montana, Pamela G. Bailey, President and CEO of the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), applauded the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Food Safety Cooperation Forum Co-Chairs and the World Bank to collaboratively scale up the deployment of food safety training modules and build out a network of food safety experts to reach more growers, more producers, and more food safety officials.

“Although the U.S. has one of the safest food supplies in the world, there is still more work to be done, especially as food supply chains become more global.” said Ms. Bailey. “Our operating model on food safety has been and continues to be very clear – industry must take the initiative to improve food safety in its own operations and through a genuine partnership with key stakeholders, including governments.”

“The Partnership Training Institute Network, established by the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum, is a shining example of the strong public-private partnerships needed. Its work allows growers, producers and regulators in the 21 APEC economies to better anticipate and manage food safety issues,” continued Bailey. “GMA is a proud partner in the PTIN and we applaud the Food Safety Cooperation Forum Co-Chairs and the World Bank for signing this memorandum of understanding to further strengthen and expand this invaluable work.”

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The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) 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 board of directors is comprised of 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. For more information, visit the GMA Web site at www.gmaonline.org.