

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives,

The undersigned organizations appreciate and support the inclusion of \$3 million within the *Fiscal Year 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* to better inform the public about the application of biotechnology to food and agricultural production.

Regrettably, there is a tremendous amount of misinformation about agricultural biotechnology in the public domain. Dedicated educational resources will ensure key federal agencies responsible for the safety of our nation's food supply – the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – are able to more easily convey to the public science- and fact-based information about food.

Agricultural innovation is important to all Americans because it enables plant and animal producers to increase production of healthful food using less land, while conserving soil, water, and on-farm energy. These benefits are passed on to consumers who reap the advantage of affordable food prices, greater access to nutritious food, an improved environment, a strengthened rural economy, and enhanced domestic and international food security.

Embracing modern agriculture is the right thing to do for our country, which has a rich history of nurturing science, research, and innovation in all areas of the economy, including farming. As President Obama stated in December 2011, “The world is shifting to an innovation economy and nobody does innovation better than America.” This presidential quote is displayed prominently in the *National Bioeconomy Blueprint*, which embraces and promotes the use of biotechnology as a significant driver of American economic growth.

The United States is strong and prosperous because American leaders embrace the responsible use of technology and set forth public policies to move the nation forward in this regard. Science education plays an important role in this forward momentum. That is why we support the inclusion of \$3 million for FDA and USDA to help the public better understand science- and fact-based information about agricultural biotechnology.

We urge you to retain this provision throughout the legislative process and oppose any legislative action to restrict agricultural technology development, to hinder farmers' access to modern agricultural tools, or to malign advancements in plant and animal agricultural applications that are helping society meet current and future food production challenges.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Agri-Women  
American Beverage Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)  
Beet Sugar Development Foundation  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Cooperative Extension Section of the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly  
Corn Refiners Association  
Crop Science Society of America  
CropLife America  
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association  
Food Marketing Institute  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Global Harvest Initiative  
Great Plains Canola Association  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Infant Nutrition Council of America  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Iowa State University  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grocers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Seasoning Manufacturers Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
New York Agribusiness Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York State Vegetable Growers Association  
North American Millers' Association  
North Carolina State University  
North Dakota State University

Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NY)  
Pet Food Institute  
Produce Marketing Association  
SNAC International  
Society of American Florists  
Soil Science Society of America  
South Dakota State University  
Texas Tech University  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
University of California, Davis  
University of Delaware, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment  
University of Missouri  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech

CC: The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
The Honorable Jerry Moran  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley