



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of The American Phytopathological Society (APS), we support inclusion of the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2021 within America Competes Act of 2022. If enacted, this bipartisan legislation will increase funding for research by creating a national initiative to advance engineering biology. It will facilitate interagency collaboration and the development of tools and technologies to advance engineering biology research and biomanufacturing.

APS is driven by a distinctive community of scientists, whose energy and commitment ensure the global advancement of phytopathology. Plant pathology is an interdisciplinary science that includes knowledge of botany, microbiology, crop science, soil science, ecology, genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, and physiology. APS members represent a broad range of specialties, from pushing frontiers in the accuracy and speed of field diagnosis, to increasing our understanding of plant pathology through laboratory research. Members come from academia, government, industry, and private practice.

APS believes that advances in engineering biology are sorely needed. This is why we are very supportive of the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act and are especially pleased to see language that would establish a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Program to advance the work of biology engineers. As researchers and scientists who work in and with the federal government, we appreciated how this bill seeks to improve interagency coordination. Additionally, we support provisions that will enhance public-private partnerships and increase education and training opportunities for engineering biology researchers.

Our members work closely with various agencies, especially the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency, on cutting edge plant biology. Through these efforts, we are working on plant resistance engineering, spectral imaging to manage plant health, rapid phenotypic and genotyping, and improved pathogen purveyance to solve of the world's biggest problems. This research will be greatly enhanced by the passage of the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act pass.

We are pleased to see the Bioeconomy Act included within both the America Competes Act and United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 and hope to see this policy included in the final version of this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you to advance plant-based science and research issues in the future.

Thank you,

Amy Charkowski
APS President