

July 25, 2014

The Honorable Austin Scott
Chairman
Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research,
Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research,
Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Schrader,

The undersigned organizations support the use of safe and modern tools, including biotechnology, in food and agricultural production and appreciate your willingness to examine the societal benefits of biotechnology in a recent House hearing.

Much misinformation exists in the public about how biotechnology is used in farming. Public dialogues, such as the one conducted in the Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture, help to advance a constructive conversation with the public about how our food is grown.

With the world's population expected to swell to over 9.6 billion people by the year 2050 – a nearly 25 percent increase over today – farmers must have access to technology, enabling them to grow more food with fewer land and water resources in an environmentally sound and sustainable way. As American agriculture works collectively to tackle food security challenges, we will need an all-hands-on-deck approach, including the use of conventional, organic and biotechnology-enhanced farming methods.

Again, we thank you for your leadership in support of modern agriculture and look forward to working with you as the committee studies policy priorities in this area. Please let us know if at any time we can be a resource for you and other members of the Committee.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Beverage Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists
American Soybean Association
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Beet Sugar Development Foundation
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Board on Agriculture Assembly, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Congressional Hunger Center

Cooperative Extension
Corn Refiners Association
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
CropLife International
Global Harvest Initiative
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Growth Energy
International Formula Council
Iowa State University
Kansas State University -- College of Agriculture
National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Confectioners Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Renderers Association
North Dakota State University
Oregon State University
Pet Food Institute
Snack Food Association
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota State University
The John Innes Centre
University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
University of Missouri System
University of Nebraska
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Wheat Associates

Cc: Members of the House Agriculture Committee