



February 24, 2016

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
Russell Senate Office Building, 458  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

On behalf of Colorado's agriculture and food industries, we write to express our strong support for the language recently released by Chairman Roberts, and ask that you work with the Chairman and Ranking Member to move this piece of legislation through the Committee and onto the floor.

The issue of biotech labeling is one of the most significant issues that the agriculture and food industry has faced in recent years. The agriculture and food industry creates over 173,000 jobs and contributes \$41 billion to our state's economy each year. This very system—which produces the most abundant, the highest quality, and the most affordable food supply in the world—will be threatened with large economic costs without a national uniform solution to the biotech labeling issue.

Biotechnology has led to increased crop yields, decreased use of pesticides, and lower food costs for consumers. Congress must ensure we avoid senseless mandates that will thwart agricultural advancement and hurt consumers—especially those low income Americans who can least afford to pay more to feed their families.

Last fall, the Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on biotech and biotech labeling. Witnesses from the three government agencies that have principal oversight of biotech approvals—the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—all reaffirmed their long standing recognition of the safety of the technology. There was also broad discussion at the hearing about the need for a national uniform solution and that any solution should not stigmatize this important tool for our Nation's farmers. Mandatory on-pack labeling of foods produced using biotechnology would mislead consumers and drive up their grocery bills.

We stand ready to work with you and other Members of the Committee to ensure there is expedited action on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Albertsons Safeway Denver Division  
Cargill Inc.  
Colorado Association of Commerce &  
Industry  
Colorado Association of Distributors  
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers

Colorado Beverage Association  
Colorado BioScience Association  
Colorado Cooperative Council  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado Farm Bureau

Colorado Potato Administrative Committee  
Colorado Sugarbeet Growers  
Crystal Creamery  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dean Foods  
General Mills  
Hormel Foods  
IGA, Inc.  
J.R. Simplot Company  
NEBCO Beet Growers  
Nestlé USA

Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association  
PepsiCo  
Plains Dairy, LLC  
Purina Animal Nutrition LLC  
Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association  
SpartanNash  
The Coca-Cola Company  
The Schwan Food Company  
Utz Quality Foods  
Western Sugar Cooperative  
WinField

Cc: Senator Cory Gardner