



February 23, 2016

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts,

On behalf of the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food, we want to thank you for your strong leadership aimed at enacting a national uniform solution on biotech labeling. We, the undersigned organizations, represent all segments of the U.S. food chain—producers, cooperatives, agribusinesses, processors, seed makers, handlers, food and feed manufacturers, lenders, and retailers. It is vitally important for the Senate to take expedited action in order to avoid the economic costs of a patchwork of state laws that will directly impact consumers, farmers, and the entire food value chain.

Mr. Chairman, we strongly support your recently released proposal and look forward to working with you, Ranking Member Stabenow, and other Members of the Committee on this important piece of legislation. The issue of biotech labeling is one of the most significant issues that the agriculture and food industry has faced in recent years. The U.S. agriculture and food industry creates over 17 million jobs, representing nearly 10% of all U.S. employment and creating 5% of U.S. economic activity. 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.

The application of biotechnology to agricultural production 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, you chaired an extensive 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.

Mr. Chairman, again we thank you and other Members of the Committee for the strong leadership that you are providing on this issue. We also thank you for your recognition of the deep sense of urgency to address this patchwork of state laws that threatens the U.S. agriculture and food industry. We stand

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

Sincerely,

Adisseo

Ag Partners

Ag Plus

Ag Processing Inc

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank

AgriBank, FCB

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

Agribusiness Association of Iowa

Agribusiness Association of Kentucky

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon

Agricultural Council of California

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agri-Mark, Inc.

Agrivida, Inc.

Agropur Inc.

Ahold USA

Alabama Agribusiness Council

Alabama Council of Cooperatives

Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.

Alabama Farmers Federation

Alabama Grocers Association

Alabama Soybean and Corn Association

Alaska Farm Bureau

Albertsons Companies

Allied Energy

Amalgamated Sugar Company

American Agri-Women

American Bakers Association

American Beverage Association

American Crystal Sugar Company

American Dairy Coalition

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Frozen Food Institute

American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition

American Phytopathological Society

American Seed Trade Association

American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists

American Soybean Association

American Sugarbeet Growers Association

Anderson Erickson Dairy Company

Apple Processors Association

AquaBounty Technologies

Arizona Beverage Association

Arizona BioIndustry Association (AZBio)

Arizona Crop Protection Association

Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

Arizona Food Marketing Alliance

Arizona Pork Council

Arkansas Beverage Association

Arkansas Farm Bureau

Arkansas Soybean Association

Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI)

Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.

Aurora Cooperative

Baesler's Market

Baptista's Bakery

Barrel O'Fun Snack Foods Co.

BASF Corporation

Bayer

Beet Sugar Development Foundation

Belgrade Co-op

Berg+Schmidt America LLC

Berry, Joe, Inc.

Better Made Snack Foods

Beverage Association of Tennessee

Beverage Association of Vermont

Big Horn Basin Beet Growers

Big Horn County Sugar Beet Growers

Bill Barr & Co.

Bimbo Bakeries

Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association

BIOCOM

BioKansas

BioNJ

BioOhio

Bioscience Association of North Dakota

BioSTL

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

BioZyme Incorporated

Bongards' Creameries

Bryce Corporation

Bunge North America

C&S Wholesale Grocers

Calcot, Ltd.

California Alfalfa and Forage Association
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Beet Growers
California Canning Peach Association
California Farm Bureau
California Grain and Feed Association
California League of Food Processors
California Life Sciences Association
California Retailers Association.
California Seed Association
California Tomato Growers Association, Inc.
California-Nevada Beverage Association
Can Manufacturers Institute
Canned Food Alliance
Cargill Inc.
Carolina Ingredients
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative, Inc.
Carolinas Food Industry Council
Cass-Clay Creamery
Caudill Seed Company
Central Lakes Co-op
Central Valley Cooperative
Ceres Solutions, LLP
Cheeze Kurls Inc.
CHS Inc.
Co-Alliance LLP
CoBank
Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated
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
Conagra Foods, Inc.
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
Connecticut Food Association
Connecticut United for Research Excellence
(CURE)
Consumers Co-op
Coop Country Farmers Elevator
Cooperative Council of North Carolina
Cooperative Credit Company

Cooperative Elevator Co.
Cooperative Farmer's Elevator of Rock Valley, IA
Cooperative Farmers
Cooperative Milk Producers Association Inc.
Cooperative Network
Corn Producers Association of Texas
Corn Refiners Association
Cortland Bulk Milk Producers Cooperative
Council for Responsible Nutrition
CroLife America
Crystal Creamery
DairiConcepts, L.P.
Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairymen's Marketing Cooperative, Inc.
Dean Foods
Del Monte Foods, Inc
Delaware Farm Bureau
Delaware Food Industry Council
Delaware Restaurant Association
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
DelawareBio
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association
Delhaize America
Delmarva Poultry Industry
Diamond Pet Food Company
Diamond V
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
Dorothy Lane Market, Inc.
Dow AgroSciences
Dr Pepper Snapple Group
DSM North America
DuPont
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
Elwyhee Beet Growers
Empire State Potato Growers
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association
Farm Credit Bank of Texas
Farm Credit of Enid
Farm Credit Services of America
Farm Credit West
Farmers Cooperative Company
Farmers Cooperative Compress
Farmers' Cooperative Creamery
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
First District Association
Five Star Coop
Flavor & Extract Manufacturers Association

Florida Beverage Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Florida Feed Association
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida's Natural Growers
Food Industry Alliance of New York
Food Marketing Institute
Foremost Farms USA
F'Real Foods, LLC
Frontier Farm Credit
Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware
Full Circle
General Mills
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia Food Industry Association
GeorgiaBev
Georgia-Florida Soybean Association
Giant Eagle
Giant of Maryland LLC
Glacial Plains Cooperative
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Global Harvest Initiative
Golden Flake Snack Foods
Golden State Farm Credit, ACA
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc.
Gro Alliance, LLC
Grocery Manufacturers Association
GROWMARK, Inc.
Harvest Land Co-op
Harvey County Farm Bureau
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association
Hawaii Farm Bureau
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association
Hawaii Papaya Industry Association
Heartland Plant Innovations
Heat and Control, Inc.
Herr Foods Inc.
Hoosier Beverage Association
Hormel Foods
HP Hood LLC
Hy-Vee
Idaho Barley Commission
Idaho Cooperative Council, Inc.
Idaho Farm Bureau
Idaho Grain Producers Association

Idaho Potato Commission
Idaho Soft Drink Association, Inc.
Idaho Sugar Beet Growers
Idaho Technology Council
Idaho Wheat Commission
IGA, Inc.
Illinois Beverage Association
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Food Retailers Association
Illinois Manufacturers Association
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Illinois Seed trade Association
Illinois Soybean Growers
Independent Bakers Association
Independent Professional Seed Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Grocery & Convenience Store Association
Indiana Health Industry Forum
Indiana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Indiana Seed Trade Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Industry University Research Center Inc.
Infant Nutrition Council of America
International Dairy Foods Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
Inventure Foods, Inc.
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Iowa Soybean Association
IowaBio
J.R. Simplot Company
Jiffy Mix
JoMar Seeds
Justin Seed Company
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Beverage Association
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Corn Growers Association

Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Farmers Service Association
Kansas Food Dealers Association
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers
Kansas Soybean Association
Kellogg Company
Kemps LLC
Kentucky Beverage Association
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Equine Research Inc.
Kentucky Farm Bureau
Kentucky Grocers & Convenience Store
Association
Kentucky Life Sciences Council
Kentucky Pork Producers Association
Kentucky Retail Federation
Kentucky Soybean Association
Knouse Foods, Inc.
Knowlan's Super Markets, Inc.
Knox County (Maine) Farm Bureau
Lakeside Foods, Inc.
Land O' Lakes, Inc.
Landmark Services Cooperative
Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, Inc.
Lebanon Seaboard Corporation
Leprino Foods Company
Lincoln County (Maine) Farm Bureau
Little Wagon Produce
Lone Star Milk Producers
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Louisiana Retailers Association
Louisiana Soybean Association
LouisianaBio
Lunds & Byerlys
Maine Beverage Association
Maine Potato Board
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers
Cooperative, Inc.
Maryland Farm Bureau
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Maryland Retailers Association
Maryland-Delaware-Washington D.C. Beverage
Association
Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers

Massachusetts Beverage Association
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio)
Massachusetts Cooperative Milk Producers
Federation, Inc.
Massachusetts Food Association
McCormick & Company, Inc.
MD-DE-DC Beverage Association
Medical Alley Association (Minnesota)
Meijer
MFA Incorporated
MFA Oil Company
MichBio
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Forest Products Council
Michigan Grocers Association
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Restaurant Association
Michigan Soft Drink Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Michigan Sugar Company
Michigan Vegetable Council
Mid America Cooperative Council
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association
Mid-West Dairyman's Company
Midwest Food Processors Association
Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
Minnesota Beverage Association
Minnesota Canola Council
Minnesota Corn Growers
Minnesota Farm Bureau
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Grocers Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mississippi Biotechnology Association (MS BIO)
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Beverage Association
Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO)
Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Dairy Association
Missouri Farm Bureau

Missouri Grocers Association
Missouri Institute of Cooperatives
Missouri Retailers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
MKC
Mondelēz International
Monsanto Company
Montana Agricultural Business Association
Montana Beverage Association
Montana Council of Cooperatives
Montana Farm Bureau
Montana-Dakota Beet Growers
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association
Mustand Seeds
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
National Grocers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Restaurant Association
National Seasoning Manufacturers Association, Inc.
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
NCFE
NEBCO Beet Growers
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Beverage Association
Nebraska Cooperative Council
Nebraska Corn Board
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association
Nebraska Soybean Association

Nebraska Sugarbeet Growers
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company
Nestlé USA
New England Biotech Association
New Hampshire Farm Bureau
New Hampshire Grocers Association
New Hampshire Soft Drink Association
New Jersey Farm Bureau
New Jersey Food Council
New Mexico Beverage Association
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association
New York Farm Bureau
New York State Agri-business Association
NewYorkBIO
NORPAC Foods, Inc.
North American Miller's Association
North Carolina Beverage Association
North Carolina Biosciences Organization (NCBIO)
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Central Co-op
North Dakota Ag Coalition
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Grocers Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northeast Cooperative Council
Northern Plains Potato Growers
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold, Inc.
Northwest Food Processors Association
Novozymes
Nutriad, Inc.
Nyssa-Nampa Sugarbeet Growers
O-AT-KA Milk Products Cooperative, Inc.
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Association of Meat Processors
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau

Ohio Grocers Association
Ohio Manufacturers Association
Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association
Ohio Restaurant Association
Ohio Soft Drink Association
Ohio Soybean Association
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council Inc.
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Old Dutch Foods, Inc.
Olive Growers Council of CA
Olive Growers Council of CA
Oregon Beverage Association
Oregon Cherry Growers, Inc.
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Feed & Grain Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Oregon Seed Association
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Pacific Coast Producers
Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association
Peapod LLC
Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc.
PennAg Industries Association
Pennsylvania Beverage Association
Pennsylvania Business Council
Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Pepsi Bottling Ventures
PepsiCo
Perry's Ice Cream Co., Inc.
Pet Food Institute
Philadelphia Beverage Association
Pierre's Ice Cream Company
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Plains Dairy, LLC
Polar Beverages
Potato Growers of Michigan
Poulin Grain, Inc.
Prairie Farms Dairy Inc.
Premier Milk Inc.
Pretzels, Inc.
Price Chopper Supermarkets
Printpack Inc.
Producers Cooperative Association
Producers Livestock Marketing Association
Protect the Harvest
Purina Animal Nutrition LLC
Readington Farms Inc.
Red Gold
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers
Retail Association of Nevada
Retail Grocers Association of Kansas City
Reynolds United Cooperative
Rhode Island Beverage Association
Rhode Island Farm Bureau
Rhode Island Food Dealers Association
Riceland Food, Inc.
Rich Products Corporation
River Valley
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association
Rudolph Foods Company, Inc.
SAB Biotherapeutics
Saputo Dairy Foods USA, LLC
Sargento Foods Inc.
Savor Seasonings
Savor Street Foods, Inc.
Schreiber Foods, Inc.
Seedway, LLC
Select Milk Producers Inc.
Seneca Foods
Shearer's Foods, LLC
Sidney Sugars Incorporated
Snack Food Association
Snak King Corporation
Snyder's-Lance, Inc.
South Carolina Beverage Association
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association
South Carolina Farm Bureau
South Carolina Retail Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Biotech
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association
South Dakota Soybean Association
South Dakota Wheat Growers
Southeast Milk Inc.
Southern Crop Production Association

Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative
Southern Montana Sugarbeet Growers
Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
SpartanNash
Spectrum Brands
St. Alban's Cooperative Creamery
St. Louis Regional Chamber
Staplcotn
Sun Valley Rice Company, LLC
Swire Coca-Cola USA
Swiss Valley Farms Company
Syngenta North America
Sysco
Tate & Lyle
Tennessee Farm Bureau
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Beverage Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas Grain Sorghum Producers
Texas Retailers Association
Texas Soybean Association
The Coca-Cola Company
The Cooperative Marketing Association in New Jersey
The Hershey Company
The J. M. Smucker Company
The Kraft Heinz Company
The Kroger Co.
The Schwan Food Company
Tillamook County Creamery Association
Topco
Tops Markets LLC
Tree Top, Inc.
Tri-County Farmers
Trouw Nutrition USA, LLC
Truco Enterprises
Trupointe Cooperative, Inc.
Turkey Creek Snacks
Turkey Hill Dairy
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Tobacco Cooperative Inc.

United Dairymen of Arizona
United Egg Producers
United Potato Growers of America
United Producers, Inc.
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Utah Beverage Association
Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Utah Food Industry Association
Utah Retail Merchants Association
Utz Quality Foods
Valley Wide Cooperative
Verdezyne
Vermont Feed Dealers & Manufacturers Association
Viafield
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Beverage Association
Virginia Cooperative Council
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Soybean Association
VirginiaBio
Walmart
Warner Seeds
Washington Beverage Association
Washington Food Industry Association
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Washington State Potato Commission
Watsonwan Farm Service
Welch Foods Inc.
Wells Enterprises, Inc.
West Central Cooperative
West Virginia Beverage Association
West Virginia Oil Marketers and Grocers Association
Western Plant Health Association
Western Sugar Cooperative
Wheaton Dumont Co-op
Wilco
Willard Agri-Service
WinCo Foods, Inc.
WinField
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
Wisconsin Beverage Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Wisconsin Soybean Association

Wise Foods, Inc.

Wixon

Wright's Stock Farm

Wyandot, Inc.

Wyoming Sugar Company

Zia Milk Producers, Inc.