

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2015

The Hon. Chairman Fred Upton
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Ranking Member Frank Pallone
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Chairman Joe Pitts
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Ranking Member Gene Green
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Pitts, and Ranking Member Green,

We thank you for your leadership and continued support for national uniformity regarding the labeling of agricultural products derived with or without the use of biotechnology. We too support the objectives of the legislation introduced by Representatives Pompeo and Butterfield and appreciate opportunities to strengthen this bill as it proceeds through the legislative process.

Mankind has used biological technologies for more than 10,000 years to improve crops and livestock, and make useful food products. Biotechnology is a critical component of any farmer's toolbox if we are to feed an estimated 10 billion people by the year 2050 in an environmentally sound, sustainable, and affordable way. Unfortunately, state based labeling programs for food products produced using biotechnology threaten to halt the orderly and efficient production and distribution of these food products within the United States.

Currently, 26 states have some form of biotech labeling legislation pending. These proposals, if enacted, would establish inconsistent and unworkable policies that would burden consumers with additional costs and competing label claims. Entrepreneurs, as well as established food processors and distributors would be forced to create myriad labels whose only benefit would be to satisfy the minutiae of each state's labeling schemes. Increasing consumer costs and confusion should not be the result of a sound, thoughtful public policy.

With this reality in mind, we all agree that Congressional action to preserve efficiency in interstate commerce through national uniformity in labeling is necessary. We are aware and

supportive of the ongoing dialogue between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce regarding H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 that has resulted in the public release of an amended substitute bill.

We recognize that this amended bill would both strengthen the existing robust biotechnology review process between USDA and FDA and facilitate the orderly marketing of agricultural products in interstate and foreign commerce.

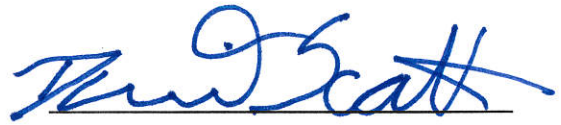
In our view, H.R. 1599, as amended, would enhance label transparency and consumer choice by creating a voluntary process for the certification of food that does not contain agricultural biotechnology. This approach is similar to programs that already exist at USDA and makes full use of USDA's expertise in the development of world-recognized process-based certification programs.

We look forward to supporting your efforts as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress




David Scott
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



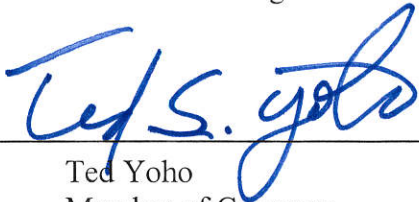
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Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Alma Adams
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



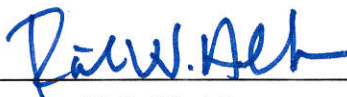
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, MD
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



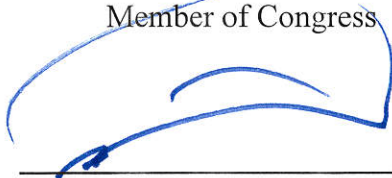
Steve King
Member of Congress



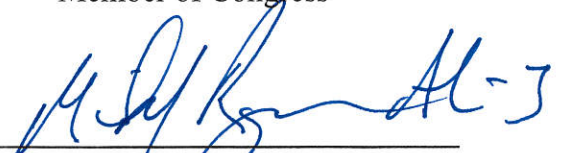
Frank Lucas
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

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Dan Newhouse

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Dan Benishek

Dan Benishek MD
Member of Congress

CC: The Hon. Chairman Mike Conaway, The Hon. Ranking Member Collin Peterson, The Hon. Mike Pompeo, The Hon. G.K. Butterfield

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