

September 4, 2015

The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

Now more than ever, American agriculture needs your continued engagement with China's President Xi Jinping on agricultural innovation and trade. The undersigned organizations embrace innovation to continue reliably supplying our valued customers in China and in other markets around the world. Sustainably meeting the challenges of global food security is important not only for China, but for all countries, and requires access to innovation and to markets. For these reasons, we ask you to make securing positive action on pending biotechnology issues a priority when you meet with President Xi in Washington, D.C. later this month.

Your intervention with President Xi last year on biotechnology issues created much-needed momentum in the bilateral relationship, establishing a commitment to strengthen and elevate the dialogue on innovation in agriculture. This significant outcome led to Chinese approval of agricultural biotechnology products and eased a significant cause of disruption in corn trade between the United States and China. However, much of the momentum gained in 2014 has since been lost, as China's Ministry of Agriculture continues to delay approvals and has proposed new regulations that threaten to extend timelines for approvals of biotech products even further.

Our request for your engagement with President Xi is two-fold. First and most immediate is to obtain a commitment from President Xi to "advance the queue" of products in the regulatory system in 2015. This would include not only the seven products currently awaiting final import approval, but also products awaiting approval to start field tests, and making decisions and acting on products currently in field trials. These actions will provide U.S. farmers new and much needed tools to address environmental and agronomic stress and give the value chain greater confidence that trade will not be disrupted.

Second, the U.S. needs to obtain agreement with President Xi to further strengthen our bilateral commitment to collaboratively encourage and foster policies that promote innovation in agriculture and trade, both in China and in the U.S. President Xi could assist in this effort by directing a broader group of Chinese Ministries to engage at a high level in the Strategic Agriculture Innovation Dialogue (SAID), which was created last December for this purpose, but has yet to meet.

Thank you for your efforts to advance the bilateral relationship with China on agricultural innovation and trade, which is of mutual interest and benefit to both countries.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Soybean & Corn Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Arizona Bioindustry Association (AZBio)
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Soybean Association
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
Biocom
Bioscience Association of North Dakota (BIO ND)
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)
California Life Sciences Association (CLSA)
Colorado Bioscience Association
Colorado Farm Bureau
Corn Producers Association of Texas
CURE—Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc
Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization—iBIO®
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau®
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Farm Bureau®
Indiana Health Industry Forum (IHIF)
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Life Science Council
Louisiana Soybean Association
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio)
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Soybean Association

Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Crop Protection Retailers
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Soybean Association
Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO)
Montana Agricultural Business Association
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Corn Board
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Nebraska Soybean Association
New Hampshire Farm Bureau
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
New York Agribusiness Association
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association
New York Farm Bureau
NewYorkBio
North Carolina Bioscience Organization (NCBIO)
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Soybean Association
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
South Carolina Corn & Soybean Association
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
South Dakota Biotech
South Dakota Agribusiness Association
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation
South Dakota Soybean Association

Tennessee Agricultural Production Association
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Soybean Association
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Virginia Bio
Virginia Grain Producers Association
Virginia Soybean Association
Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Soybean Association