



June 27, 2016

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) urges you to support the Roberts-Stabenow GMO labeling agreement.

This legislation represents a carefully crafted bipartisan compromise that will establish national GMO labeling and disclosure uniformity and provide consumers with more consistent, reliable information about bioengineered food. By doing so, it will preserve stability in the U.S. food value chain and reduce negative impacts on consumers, farmers, and agricultural innovation that a patchwork of multiple state GMO labeling laws foretells.

The Congress must pass the Roberts-Stabenow agreement and send it to the President without delay. Vermont's mandatory GMO labeling law takes effect on July 1. That state's law is already generating chaos in the food chain and will, if not replaced with a uniform federal program, raise food prices for consumers. In the absence of such a national standard, many food companies already have been forced to undertake costly measures to comply with Vermont's law, either through special labeling or sourcing more expensive non-GMO ingredients, and many more will face such choices as more and different state labeling laws proliferate across the country.

Without a national policy in place, American agricultural and food production will be fundamentally transformed for the worse. Consumers, farmers, and agricultural innovation will suffer the consequences as will our nation's ability to help feed, in an environmentally sustainable way, nearly 10 billion people who will inhabit our planet by the year 2050.

With the bipartisan Roberts-Stabenow agreement, the Congress has an opportunity to end the food chain chaos Vermont is generating and affirm the national government's authority over food labeling policy. By voting for this bipartisan compromise bill, you will have a hand in preserving agricultural innovation, providing consumers with more consistent and reliable information about their food while keeping prices affordable, and enabling farmers to meet our nation's domestic and international food security goals.

BIO urges you to support this important legislative agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Greenwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James C. Greenwood
President and CEO