

U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

September 10, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance greatly appreciates your efforts to elevate the U.S.- China dialogue on agricultural innovation. Your engagement with President Xi Jinping at the 2014 APEC Summit established a strong foundation on which to build a robust, mutually beneficial, long-term dialogue on cooperation as it relates to agricultural innovation, including global food security, climate unpredictability and rural economic growth. In this regard, we ask that practical, trade facilitating measures to ensure increased Chinese access to the products of U.S. agriculture be a priority for your upcoming meeting with President Xi.

We are concerned that, since your last meeting with President Xi, much of the good will and cooperation about solving common food, environmental and economic policy goals have eroded or even reversed course. Despite some progress in 2014, including China's approval of three biotechnology-derived crops, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture has since delayed action on a growing queue of other crops, proposed new regulations, and adopted regulatory requirements that will add an additional year of field trials in some cases. These actions run counter to our nations' commitment to intensify science-based agricultural innovation and undermine our ability to bring new tools to market to manage insects, weeds, and drought, and they leave China more vulnerable to supply shocks.

We ask that you raise the need for China to establish a transparent, predictable and practical approach to both biotechnology approvals and imports of grains and oilseeds that may contain crop biotechnology. A second goal is to obtain a commitment from President Xi to advance the full queue of biotechnology products, including the seven currently awaiting final import approvals, and other products in or awaiting field trials. Finally, we urge you to reengage President Xi on the importance of elevating and intensifying the Strategic Agricultural Innovation Dialogue, so that we can tackle serious food, environmental, and economic challenges in the strongest possible manner over the long term.

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Again, thank you for your strong and consistent engagement on these matters.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Seed Trade Association

American Soybean Association

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Corn Refiners Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association

National Grain and Feed Association

National Oilseed Processors Association

North American Export Grain Association

North American Millers' Association

U.S. Canola Association

U.S. Grains Council

U.S. Soybean Export Council

Cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Penny Pritzker, U.S. Department of Commerce
Ambassador Michael Froman, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Caroline Atkinson, White House Deputy National Security Advisor for International
Economics