

U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

September 30, 2014

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

Dear Mr. President:

As your administration prepares for the upcoming 2014 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit, hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China, we respectfully request your attention to Chinese agricultural biotechnology policy and its impact on U.S. crop exports to China.

The Chinese market for U.S. grains and oilseeds is incredibly important to the viability of the U.S. agricultural economy. China is the largest U.S. export market for soybeans, \$14 billion in 2013 and corn and corn product exports were roughly \$3.5 billion. Agricultural biotechnology is also important to U.S. farmers, with acreage for biotechnology varieties of corn and soybeans totaling over 90 percent in 2014; enabling U.S. farmers to increase yield while reducing their environmental footprint. However, the U.S. agricultural crop value-chain currently faces serious challenges in providing for predictable and stable trade to China due to the inability to secure timely import approvals for new biotechnology products and a growing concern that factors other than science are being used as justification to reject applications. In some instances, this has created a situation where U.S. exports of agricultural crop commodities have ceased or are in jeopardy of being rejected.

The undersigned organizations represent a broad cross-section of the U.S. agricultural value-chain. We urge you to make market access for U.S. crops a top priority during your upcoming visit to China and seek your assistance in advancing the U.S.- China relationship on agricultural biotechnology and trade beyond the status quo. Doing so will ensure that U.S. trade of crops that have been produced with safe and approved modern crop biotechnology can continue to be exported to China.

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We recognize you will have a number of high level issues to address with the Chinese. We stand ready and willing to further work with your administration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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

U.S. Canola Association

U.S. Grains Council

U.S. Soybean Export Council

cc. Ambassador Mike Froman, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
The Honorable Jack Lew, U.S. Department of the Treasury
The Honorable John Kerry, U.S. Department of State
The Honorable Penny Pritzker, U.S. Department of Commerce
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture