

U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

December 10, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wyden and Hatch,

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA), comprised of the undersigned organizations, appreciates the Finance Committee's role in elevating agricultural biotechnology trade policy priorities to a high-level discussion within the Congress and the Executive Branch agencies, particularly with respect to China. Your leadership has proven invaluable to the entire U.S. agricultural value chain. By asking questions of key administration officials and listing agricultural biotechnology among the committee's top priorities, and by inviting witnesses from the value chain to testify in trade enforcement hearings, the Finance Committee is acknowledging the significant economic benefit associated with the trade of U.S. grains and co-products derived through biotechnology.

Congressional engagement over the past year was critical to elevating agricultural biotechnology to a discussion item at the recent summit between President Obama and President Xi in Beijing. With this meeting behind us, focus now shifts to the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) meeting on December 17 and 18 in Chicago, where industry believes it is essential for the United States and China to craft a comprehensive framework agreement establishing a schedule of commitments focused on resolving this issue in the near term.

The USBCA looks forward to conducting an ongoing dialogue with you and other members of the Finance Committee. Continued engagement is essential, not only regarding China, but also the European Union, another important trading partner with which the United States is experiencing significant trade policy challenges associated with agricultural biotechnology.

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Again, thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you and members of the Finance Committee in the 114th Congress.

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: Members of the Senate Finance Committee