

September 14, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roberts, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Ranking Member Peterson:

As representatives of the U.S. food and agricultural value chain and members of the Coalition for Safe, Affordable Food (the Coalition), we write to express our support for Section 7608 in the House-passed H.R. 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, regarding public education on agricultural biotechnology. We believe these provisions will support the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other relevant federal agencies in providing consumers with education materials on the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law (NBFDL) and its implementing regulations – the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (NBFDS). Such education materials can assist in explaining how the NBFDS provides consumers with information on the ingredients of the foods they eat, one overriding purpose of the NBFDL.

As you are aware, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is in the process of finalizing the NBFDS. AMS issued a proposed rule on May 3, 2018, for which the Coalition submitted comments on July 3, 2018. Those comments contain a recommendation that USDA conduct an educational campaign to help ensure that consumers possess a reasonable understanding of the various disclosure options, including what they mean with respect to whether a product is produced with bioengineered ingredients. Given the significant investment of time and resources dedicated by Congress and USDA to developing the NBFDL and NBFDS, an effort that carefully balances the needs of consumers, farmers, retailers, exporters, and other stakeholders, we believe Congress should encourage and support USDA's diligent effort to develop a consumer education campaign that will make the NBFDS as useful for consumers as possible. The Coalition believes the provisions contained in Section 7608 or H.R. 2 reinforce Congress's desire that the Administration take a proactive role in providing these educational resources.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to working with you in the coming weeks to successfully enact a long-term Farm Bill that supports implementation of the NBFDL and a final NBFDS in a way that will meet the needs of consumers and our entire food and agricultural value chain.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Bakers Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Calorie Control Council  
Corn Refiners Association  
Food Marketing Institute  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
International Food Additives Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
North American Millers Association  
SNAC International  
U.S. Canola Association