

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your continued engagement on resolving trade differences between the United States and China. We write in support of the continued prioritization of a timely, transparent, and science-based system for the approvals of agricultural biotechnology products.

Over the last few decades, advancements in research and the development of crop technologies in the U.S. have allowed producers to achieve higher yields, overcome weather challenges, and require fewer inputs, such as pesticide and nitrogen application. This innovation is significantly hindered by delays in China's regulatory system, as producers who seek to access and compete in the global market risk rejection of shipments of grain and oilseeds.

Past commitments have been made between the U.S. and China to address these issues, most recently in 2017 as part of the Administration's 100-Day Action Plan of the U.S. – China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue. While there have been approvals for a limited number of certain products, China has failed to make the systemic changes to their regulatory system required to provide the predictability upon which U.S. producers, technology providers, and exporters rely.

We recognize the recent decision to suspend the scheduled tariff increase and look forward to resolving critical trade barriers in the ongoing negotiations. As you prepare to meet with President Xi, and your Administration continues negotiations on a U.S.-China trade agreement, we ask that you continue to prioritize a timely, transparent, and science-based system for the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

A strengthened agreement that results in a functioning and reliable regulatory system for these products will allow our producers to better compete in the global market, strengthen mutual food security, address environmental challenges, and continue to advance innovation and success at home.

Sincerely,

Pat Roberts

Debbie Stabenow

Jerry Moran

Tom Carper

Mike Crapo

Chris Coons

John Barrasso

Al Franken

James Risch

Tim Wirth

Hyun

Ang Klobuchar

John Bozeman

Larry Carter

Steve Daines

Dick Durbin

Kevin Cramer

Tony Blaine

John Hoeven

Tammy Duckworth

Mike Braun

Michael B. Enzi

M. Mathias Gonzalez

Joni K. Ernst

Rob Fischer

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

James R. Inhofe

Ben Sasse

Loy Anderson

Tom Sum

Cindy Hyde-Smith

Tom Tillis

John Cornyn

Marsha Blackburn

David A. Perdue

John Thune

Kay Hens