

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bishop, Chairwoman Baldwin, Ranking Member Harris, and Ranking Member Hoeven:

The farmers, cooperatives, researchers, retailers, seed producers, scientists, and technology developers represented by the organizations below write to express our strong support for the inclusion of language in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Agriculture) Appropriations bill to provide the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the necessary resources to develop and publish for public comment its draft guidance on how its regulatory policy for foods derived from new plant varieties applies to foods from plants produced using genome editing.

Crop varieties improved through biotechnology have enabled improved tillage practices, improved soil health, and greatly reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. New innovations in plant breeding techniques, including agricultural biotechnology like genome editing tools such as CRISPR, will be crucial to building on these accomplishments to sustainably increase agricultural production and enhance food security.

Expanding the adoption of innovative technologies and practices that reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture requires advanced, modern regulatory approaches to keep pace with innovation. FDA plays a critical role in the coordinated oversight of plant biotechnology. While both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have taken actions to modernize their regulations for plants produced using new biotechnology techniques, FDA has yet to issue its guidance.

It is crucial that the government establish risk-proportionate, transparent regulations that spur biological innovations while protecting health and the environment in a timely manner. Increased federal funding and coordination between agencies will be critical to maintain America's leadership and ensure its farmers and producers will have access to cutting edge agricultural technologies. As such, we urge the Committee to provide FDA with the necessary resources to support the issuance of guidance for industry on foods derived from plants produced using genome editing and to modernize and improve the timelines and predictability of

the Plant Biotechnology Consultation Program under FDA's 1992 Statement of Policy – Foods Derived from New Plant Varieties.

We look forward to working with you and thank you for your attention to this important matter as you develop the FY 2023 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Soybean Association
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Crop Science Society of America
International Fresh Produce Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
U.S. Canola Association