



February 24, 2016

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

On behalf of the Ohio agriculture, food, and retail industries. We write to express our strong support for the language recently released by Chairman Roberts, and ask that you work with the Chairman and Ranking Member to move this piece of legislation through the Committee and onto the floor.

The issue of biotech labeling is one of the most significant issues that the agriculture and food industry has faced in recent years. The agriculture and food industry contributes more than \$11 billion to our state's economy each year, and 1 in 7 jobs are related to agriculture in the state of Ohio. This very system—which produces the most abundant, the highest quality, and the most affordable food supply in the world—will be threatened with large economic costs without a national uniform solution to the biotech labeling issue.

Biotechnology has led to increased crop yields, decreased use of pesticides, and lower food costs for consumers. Congress must ensure we avoid senseless mandates that will thwart agricultural advancement and hurt consumers—especially those low income Americans who can least afford to pay more to feed their families.

Last fall, the Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on biotech and biotech labeling. Witnesses from the three government agencies that have principal oversight of biotech approvals—the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—all reaffirmed their long standing recognition of the safety of the technology. There was also broad discussion at the hearing about the need for a national uniform solution and that any solution should not stigmatize this important tool for our Nation's farmers. Mandatory on-pack labeling of foods produced using biotechnology would mislead consumers and drive up their grocery bills.

We stand ready to work with you and other Members of the Committee to ensure there is expedited action on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BioOhio
Bunge North America
Cargill Inc.
ConAgra Foods, Inc.

Crystal Creamery
Dairy Farmers of America
Dean Foods
Dorothy Lane Market, Inc

East Side Jersey Dairy
Foremost Farms USA
General Mills
Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc.
Herr Foods Inc.
Hormel Foods
IGA, Inc.
Kellogg Company
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Meijer
Mondelēz International
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
Nestlé USA
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Association of Meat Processors
Ohio Beverage Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau
Ohio Grocers Association
Ohio Manufacturers Association
Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association
Ohio Restaurant Association

Ohio Soft Drink Association
Ohio Soybean Association
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association
PepsiCo
Perry's Ice Cream Co., Inc.
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Purina Animal Nutrition LLC
Rich Products Corporation
Rudolph Foods Company, Inc.
Sargento Foods Inc.
Savor Seasonings
Scioto County Cooperative Milk Producers'
Association
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
Shearer's Foods, LLC
SpartanNash
The Coca-Cola Company
The J. M. Smucker Company
The Kraft Heinz Company
The Schwan Food Company
Truco Enterprises
Utz Quality Foods
WinField
Wyandot, Inc.

Cc: Senator Rob Portman