



February 24, 2016

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building, 458
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

On behalf of Colorado's agriculture and food 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 creates over 173,000 jobs and contributes \$41 billion to our state's economy each year. 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,

Albertsons Safeway Denver Division
Cargill Inc.
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry
Colorado Association of Distributors
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers

Colorado Beverage Association
Colorado BioScience Association
Colorado Cooperative Council
Colorado Corn Growers Association
Colorado Farm Bureau

Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Colorado Sugarbeet Growers
Crystal Creamery
Dairy Farmers of America
Dean Foods
General Mills
Hormel Foods
IGA, Inc.
J.R. Simplot Company
NEBCO Beet Growers
Nestlé USA

Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association
PepsiCo
Plains Dairy, LLC
Purina Animal Nutrition LLC
Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association
SpartanNash
The Coca-Cola Company
The Schwan Food Company
Utz Quality Foods
Western Sugar Cooperative
WinField

Cc: Senator Cory Gardner