



February 24, 2016

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

On behalf of Minnesota'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 340,000 jobs and contributes \$23.7 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,

Agropur Inc.  
American Crystal Sugar Company  
Anderson Erickson Dairy Company  
Associated Milk Producers, Inc.  
Barrel O'Fun Snack Foods Co.

Bongards' Creameries  
Cargill Inc.  
ConAgra Foods, Inc.  
Crystal Creamery  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dean Foods

FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
First District Association  
Foremost Farms USA  
General Mills  
Hormel Foods  
J.R. Simplot Company  
Kemps LLC  
Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
LifeScience Alley  
Medical Alley Association (Minnesota)  
Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative  
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council  
Minnesota Beverage Association  
Minnesota Canola Council  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota Corn Growers  
Minnesota Farm Bureau  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association

Minnesota Grocers Association  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Old Dutch Foods, Inc.  
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association  
PepsiCo  
Purina Animal Nutrition LLC  
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers  
Saputo Dairy Foods USA, LLC  
Sargento Foods Inc.  
Seneca Foods  
Shearer's Foods, LLC  
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative  
Swiss Valley Farms Company  
Tate & Lyle  
The Coca-Cola Company  
The Schwan Food Company  
Watonwan Farm Service  
WinField

Cc: Senator Al Franken