

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 15, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the leadership your administration has taken in engaging with China on many critical issues related to agriculture. Of specific importance, we appreciate the continued emphasis on China maintaining and adhering to a stable and science-based system for approvals of agriculture biotechnology products.

The ongoing dialogue between our two governments has resulted in commitments from China to provide regulatory predictability and increased cooperation in areas such as biotechnology. However, these commitments have not yet resulted in significant action from China, as there are currently outstanding products pending final approval, some of which have been awaiting approval for over five years. Although we note efforts in the last year to revise Chinese regulatory policies, the changes have not had the intended effect of providing additional transparency and meeting approval timelines with more certainty.

American producers rely on access to the global market for the food and fiber they harvest. If they are to remain competitive around the world, it is imperative that we hold our trading partners to the commitments they make. When the Chinese government fails to remain transparent, science-based, and timely in its regulatory process it impacts not only our farmers' and ranchers' abilities to access critical markets in China, but also their abilities to utilize the best and most innovative agricultural technologies in our fields at home in the U.S.

As your administration prepares for the upcoming dialogue between the U.S. and China, the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, we ask that you continue to prioritize biotechnology approvals with the Chinese government. We encourage you to continue building on the progress that has been made over the last few years and urge China to move forward in deregulating products awaiting final approval, as well as to eliminate trade barriers due to regulatory systems that don't operate based on scientific assessments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Stabenow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Cory Anderson

Heidi Heitkamp

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