



March 15, 2016

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

I write on behalf of National Farmers Union's (NFU) nearly 200,000 members nationwide who are increasingly concerned over the lack of a solution to the biotech labeling debate. Our organization applauds the work you have done to address this concern and urge you to continue your efforts in finding a meaningful compromise.

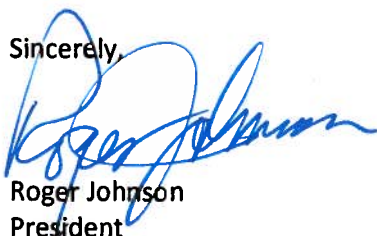
NFU represents a range of producers, from conventional to organic and all practices in between. Our policy holds that the rights of both conventional and organic producers should be respected as congress and regulatory agencies seek to address growing consumer demands for labeling. Any agreement should not limit the freedom of agricultural producers and processors to accurately advertise, label and promote products as non-genetically altered.

Market demands, driven by consumers, have created growth and price premiums for producers growing non-GMO products. We urge that any compromise ensure that the growth we have witnessed is protected for the benefit of producers and consumers alike. NFU policy holds that thorough and accurate food labels are an important tool that helps consumers make informed decisions and allows producers to differentiate their products. Such labeling must be clear, consistent, and truthful.

As you finalize a national uniform solution on biotech labeling, we want to affirm our confidence in the safety and benefits of agricultural biotechnology. At the same time, we also reiterate our respect for producers who choose to practice alternative forms of agriculture. We appreciate the challenge you face as you try to balance those competing demands, while reconciling consumer preferences and consumer confidence in a labeling framework. This is no small task and we thank you again for your willingness to address this challenging question.

If I, or any of my staff, can be helpful to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Roger Johnson
President