

March 9, 2023

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As organizations representing America's highly innovative and competitive food and agricultural value chain, we write to express our thanks for USTR's announcement that it will begin technical consultations with Mexico concerning its action to ban imports of biotech corn.

We are disappointed that Mexico's revised decree maintains policies related to agricultural technology, innovation and trade that are out of step with its commitments under the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA). As such, we support your administration's request for consultations with Mexico regarding its treatment of agricultural biotechnology and denying the use of certain crop protection tools, to provide a framework and timeline to resolve this issue. We look forward to these consultations beginning promptly.

We appreciate the efforts of your administration to resolve this issue through negotiations, and Mexico's efforts to narrow the scope of U.S. concerns. However, it is important to note that Mexico's new decree issued on February 13, 2023, continues to limit the use of innovative agricultural tools, extends restrictions on safe crop protection products, and enacts barriers to trade. The new decree is inconsistent with USMCA obligations and fails to establish a science- and risk-based regulatory approval process for all agricultural biotechnology products and ignores the immediate need to establish a risk assessment process for gene editing technology. Without material scientific justification, the new decree draws a safety distinction between corn used for food and corn used for feed and industrial uses.

As your Executive Order on Advancing Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Innovation for a Sustainable, Safe, and Secure American Bioeconomy rightly noted, biotechnology is critical to achieve our climate goals, improve food security and sustainability, secure our supply chains, and grow the economy across all of America. Accomplishing these goals will require the U.S. government to address acute and systemic barriers that prevent growers from accessing innovative biotechnology.

The United States must use the dispute mechanisms afforded in trade agreements like the USMCA to ensure trade barriers or domestic policies do not limit the tools U.S. farmers have to sustainably produce food for our ever-growing world population. Sending a strong signal on enforcement will serve as a critical precedent for other trading partners.

Mr. President, we support your administration's enforcement of a rules-based trading system for agricultural innovation and your efforts to stand up for American farmers, developers, traders, processors, manufacturers, and retailers.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Alabama Soybean and Corn Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)  
Association of American Railroads  
Biocom California  
BioKansas  
Bio Nebraska  
BioNJ  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Center for Global Health Innovation: Georgia Bio  
Corn Growers Association of North Carolina  
Corn Refiners Association  
CropLife America  
FMI – The Food Industry Association  
Georgia Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Health Industry Forum  
INDUNIV Research Center, Inc. – Bioscience Cluster Puerto Rico  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Farm Bureau  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kentucky Corn Growers Association  
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)  
Michigan Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
Montana Bioscience Association  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association

New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (NMBio)  
New York BIO  
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance, Inc.  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Biotech  
South Dakota Corn Growers Association  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Texas Corn Producers Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Grains Council  
Virginia Farm Bureau  
Waterways Council Inc.  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

cc: Ambassador Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture