



September 12, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers & Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey,

On July 29, 2016, the President signed into law S. 764, legislation authored by Senators Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) to establish national uniformity with respect to the labeling of bioengineered food. This measure, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate and the House, requires bioengineered food disclosure in the United States and directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop and administer regulations governing a mandatory disclosure program.

Because the Congress and the President have already established, via federal law, a mandatory program to address consumer curiosity about bioengineered food, we urge your committee to oppose any provision related to bioengineered food labeling, including salmon labeling, that might come before you during consideration of the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process. The Congress has spoken clearly and has established a national bioengineered food labeling and disclosure program at USDA. No further action is necessary, and indeed any additional Congressional instruction on this issue would be confusing and counterproductive as USDA proceeds with timely implementation of S. 764. Furthermore, bill language targeting any particular bioengineered product for differential treatment would be unfair and discriminatory.

We appreciate your attention to this important innovation policy issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Greenwood".

James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zippy Duvall".

Zippy Duvall  
President  
American Farm Bureau Federation

Cc: The Honorable Jerry Moran  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
The Honorable Sam Farr