

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We appreciate your administration's continued efforts to engage the People's Republic of China – a vital U.S. trading partner – on the topic of agricultural innovation and trade. Though some progress has been made, we request that agricultural biotechnology remain a top priority for the United States as we engage the Chinese through a series of meetings this fall, including the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) in November.

Over the past three years, your administration has successfully secured commitments from Chinese officials to pursue a more normalized trading relationship and improve the approval process for products of agricultural biotechnology. Despite this very promising engagement, we continue to see a disconnect between Chinese commitments and action. For instance, in February, three out of 11 biotech products were approved, but China has issued no approvals since that time. The backlog continues to grow. Currently there are a total of 25 biotech products in the regulatory queue in China, including eight in the final stage. Four of these products have been under review since mid-2011.

We recognize that regulatory reform in China is complex and will require time. However, we are alarmed that recent amendments to China's biotech regulatory regime effectively provide less clarity and specificity around the approval process, rather than more transparency and accountability. This development appears to run counter to commitments made to the United States, and raises serious questions regarding China's intention to follow through on the spirit of the agreements made in September 2015 and June 2016.

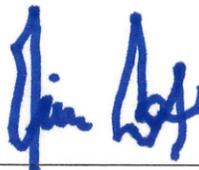
China continues to be a very significant trading partner for U.S. agriculture. In 2015 China purchased \$20.3 billion worth of American agricultural products, roughly \$10.8 billion, or 54%, of which were biotech-derived plant products. Paving a path forward through continued high-level engagement is essential to facilitate a more positive trade environment and relationship, including for products of agricultural biotechnology. The U.S. agricultural value chain is committed to working with the United States and Chinese governments to support these efforts. Delayed approvals that limit access to innovative products and encumber trade only serve to undermine the progress made to date and significantly dampens innovation and trade affecting both the U.S. and Chinese economies.

As your team engages their Chinese counterparts in preparation for the JCCT, we ask that you place added focus on transitioning China's commitments into positive action. Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of U.S. agriculture and trade.

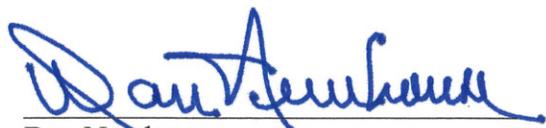
Sincerely,



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



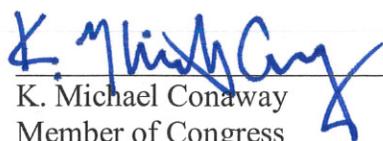
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



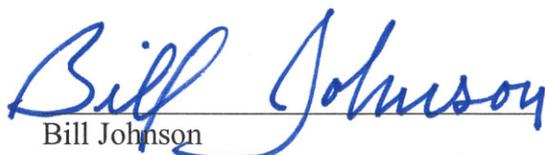
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



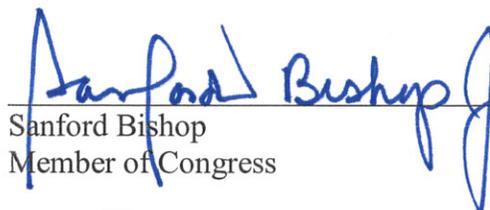
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



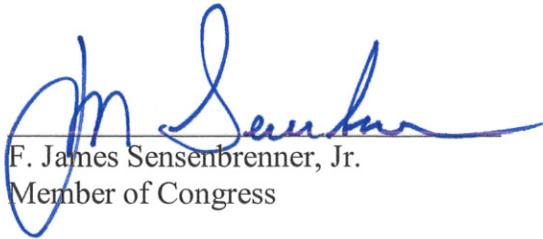
Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

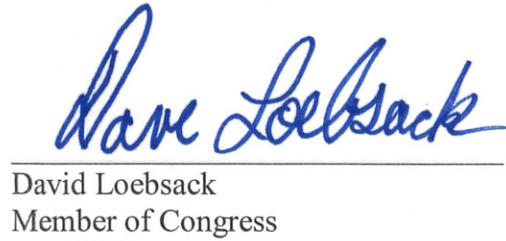


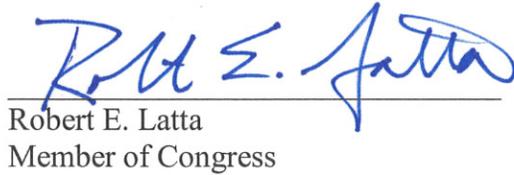
Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



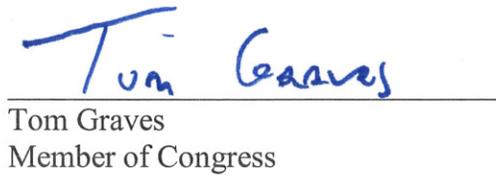
Kyrsten Sinema
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F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress


David Loeb sack
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Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
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Tom Graves
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress

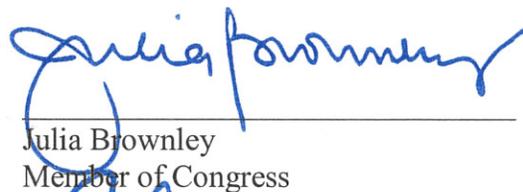

Blaine Luetkemeyer
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Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

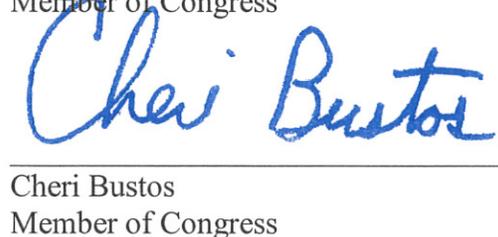

Trent Franks
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Steve Pearce
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Julia Brownley
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Kristi Noem
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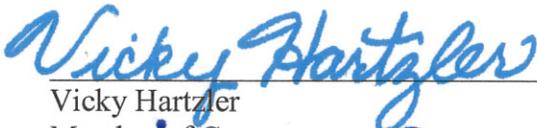
David Scott
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Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



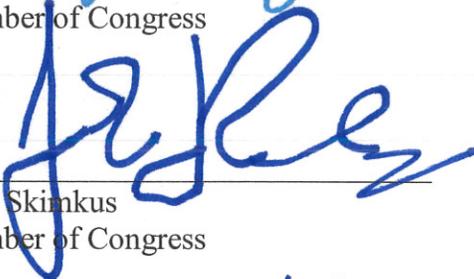
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



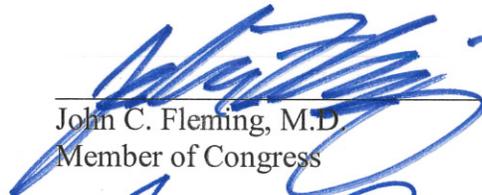
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



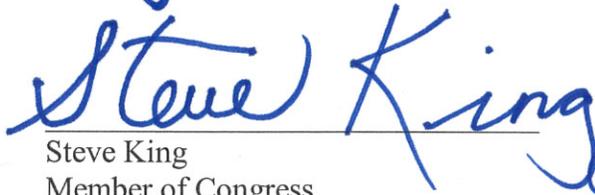
Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



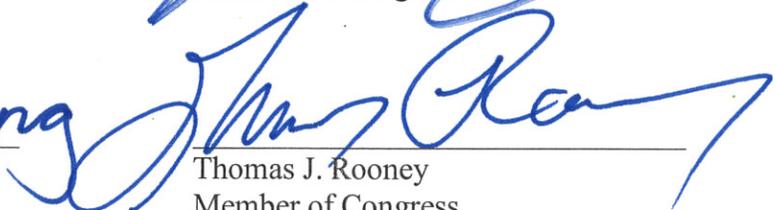
John Skinkus
Member of Congress



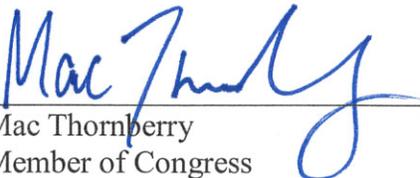
John C. Fleming, M.D.
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Thomas J. Rooney
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Mac Thornberry
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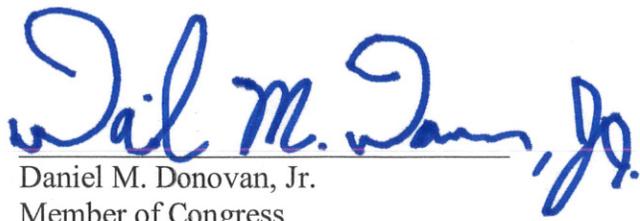
Kevin Yoder
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Rod Blum
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Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
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Reid Ribble
Member of Congress

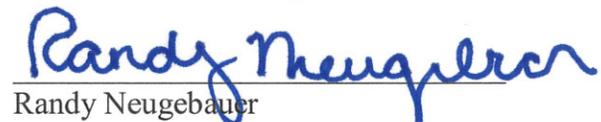

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Todd Rokita
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Mike Kelly
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Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

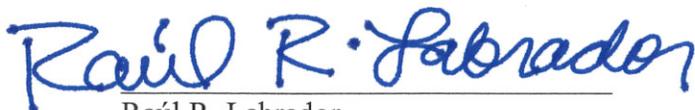

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

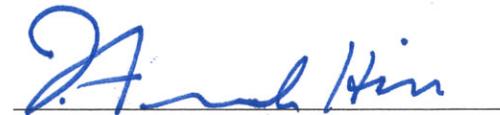

Billy Long
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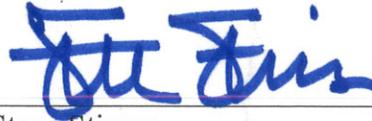

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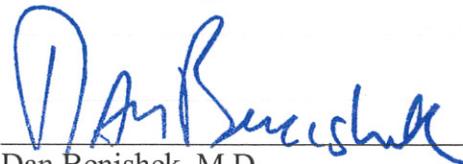
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



David Young
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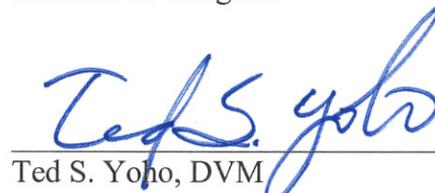
Chris Collins
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Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



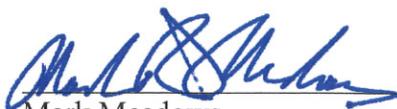
Ted S. Yoho, DVM
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Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



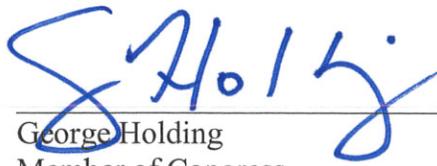
Randy Weber
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Mark Meadows
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Luke Messer
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



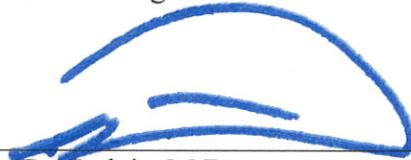
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Lynn Jenkins, CPA
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Mike Pompeo
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Tom Marino
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Ann Wagner
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Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



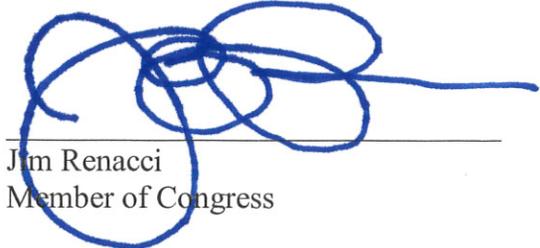
Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



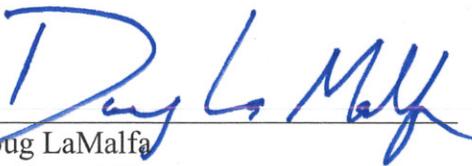
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Richard Hudson
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Jim Renacci
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Doug LaMalfa
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Glenn 'GT' Thompson
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Scott Tipton
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Rob Bishop
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Sean Duffy
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Martha McSally
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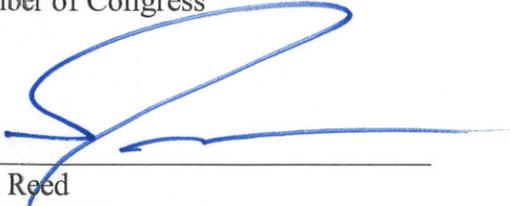

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
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Devin Nunes
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Tom Reed
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