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July 13, 2016

Dear Representative,

On behalf of more than 40,000 farming families, Michigan Farm Bureau urges you to support S.764, the Senate GMO labeling compromise, when it comes to the floor later this week. Michigan farmers need the certainty this bill provides to prevent an unruly patchwork of state-by-state GMO labeling laws.

Our members believe that a national, science-based standard is the best approach to inform and protect consumers. A national standard would bring transparency and consistency to the market and protect consumer choice, while also preventing duplicative state mandates from increasing consumer confusion and burdening shoppers with unnecessary costs. With Vermont's labeling law in effect, it is critical, now more than ever, to resolve this issue at the federal level.

The credible and comprehensive review by the National Academy of Sciences further shows the safety of genetic engineering for consumers. Genetic engineering has had a positive environmental impact through improved nutrient use by plants, resulting in fewer spray applications and increased yields. It has also kept food affordable with the potential to feed a growing world.

New biotech traits promise benefits to consumers, such as fruits and vegetables that stay fresh longer and help families save money. Biotechnology offers our best opportunity to fight emerging plant pests and diseases. It is vital that we maintain a strong market for the products of biotechnology, which in turn encourage continued investment in the development of new technologies that help us grow more food on existing land using fewer inputs, while improving productivity.

Farming families, processors, grocery stores, and countless communities across the state invested in food production are counting on your leadership to get Congress to see this thing through. That is why we are urging Congress to take immediate action to get sensible, responsible GMO labeling legislation passed. Please support S. 764, the Senate GMO labeling compromise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Bednarski'.

Carl Bednarski, President
Michigan Farm Bureau