

June 9, 2006

The Honorable Susan Schwab  
U.S. Trade Representative  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:

The Russian Federation's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) would be an important step forward for global world trade. As you seek to conclude negotiations between the United States and the Russian Federation, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) urges you to ensure that Russia develops regulations and policies that provide for maximum market access for U.S. food and agricultural products produced through modern agricultural biotechnology.

BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and 31 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of health care, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products.

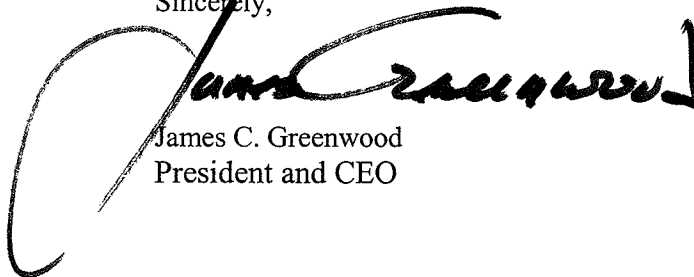
With Russia's accession to the WTO, the level of U.S. food and agriculture exports is expected to increase meaningfully. Russia, however, continues to maintain regulations and policies that impede trade in agricultural biotechnology products.

In general, Russia should implement a science-based regulatory and labeling system to ensure timely approval of agricultural biotechnology products, and should not impose mandatory labeling of such products unless warranted by the science. Further, the City of Moscow recently announced a ban on the serving of biotechnology food in schools, which is inconsistent with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

We appreciate the efforts that your negotiators have made to try to resolve these issues. Satisfactory resolution prior to conclusion of bilateral negotiations, however, is critical to ensure that U.S. farmers and food processors can truly benefit from the gains achieved in the market access negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO