

March 5, 2010

James C. Greenwood  
President & CEO

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Relations  
HB-26 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Relations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I am writing to encourage your support of programs and initiatives of great importance to our industry. Please support the following requests as you develop the Fiscal Year 2011 State, Foreign Relations & Related Programs Appropriations Act:

**Global Food Security Initiative:**

The President's Budget requests \$408,400,000 to support investments that tackle the root causes of hunger, improve food security, and permanently reduce the number of chronically hungry and malnourished. BIO supports this program, and we believe that our industry has an important role to play in these efforts. Today's farmers are sowing seeds that yield more per acre while resisting insect pests and reducing the impact on the environment. Farmers and ranchers can help plants and animals better fight diseases and adapt to environmental stress and climate change. We can also enhance the nutritional content of foods and improve human health through plant-and animal-produced therapies.

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Development Assistance Programs:**

BIO relies strongly on USAID's ability to work directly with developing countries that are developing and implementing biotechnology policies and regulatory systems that will open up foreign markets to U.S. exports of agricultural biotechnology products. Therefore, BIO requests the Committee provide \$30 million for Collaborative Research Support Programs at USAID, as well as include the following report language to your bill:

*The Committee provides at least \$30,000,000 for the Collaborative Research Programs for plant biotechnology research and development, with an emphasis on harnessing global expertise, especially from the private sector, to improve food security and incomes in Africa and Asia.*

We believe that without the inclusion of the report language from the Committee, the use of the development funds for agricultural development programs utilizing biotechnology research and regulatory policy will be greatly reduced, and could risk the progress currently under way in a number of targeted import markets.



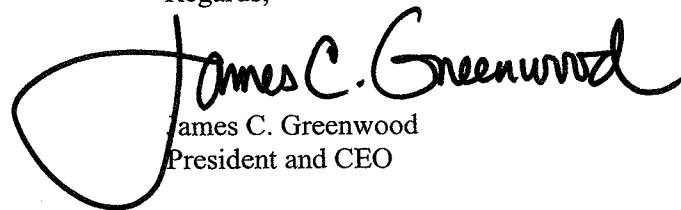
**The Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs (EEB) at the U.S.  
Department of State**

BIO supports the EEB's mission to promote economic security and prosperity, particularly agriculture biotechnology outreach activities, which are a critical component of our agricultural trade efforts. These activities were funded at \$500,000 in FY 2010; unfortunately, the President's budget request for FY 2011 only requests \$300,000 for this program. BIO recognizes the current constraints on government spending; however, we believe that this program needs to be funded at \$500,000 in order to meet program needs. Therefore, BIO requests that the Committee consider adding the following Report Language to your bill:

*The Committee provides \$500,000 to the Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs to maintain adequate funding levels for biotechnology outreach initiatives to meet program needs.*

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Patrick Carroll, Director of Federal Government Relations at (202) 962-6696. We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process.

Regards,

  
James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO