

James C. Greenwood  
President & CEO

June 9, 2006

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Bill Thomas  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means

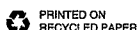
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Sirs:

We greatly appreciate the letter you sent to the President on May 11, 2006, concerning negotiations with the Russian Federation on its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) fully supports your position that Russia must resolve issues related to intellectual property rights and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures prior to a bilateral agreement being signed.

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.

BIO would like to bring to your attention the fact that, in addition to SPS issues for beef, pork and poultry, problems related to agricultural biotechnology also remain unresolved, despite the efforts of U.S. negotiators. First, Russia is looking to establish an interim biosafety and cultivation regulatory system in the near term. It is critical that the United States be able to comment on that system, as well as any proposed permanent biosafety and cultivation regulatory system, before it goes into effect to ensure that it is consistent with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The new regulatory system should provide for science-based, transparent and timely approvals of agricultural biotechnology products. Second, Russia needs to approve several outstanding applications for agricultural biotechnology products that have received positive risk assessments. Third, Russia should not impose mandatory labeling for agricultural biotechnology products unless there is a scientific basis for such labeling. Fourth, the City of Moscow should not ban agricultural biotechnology products in schools, as recently announced.

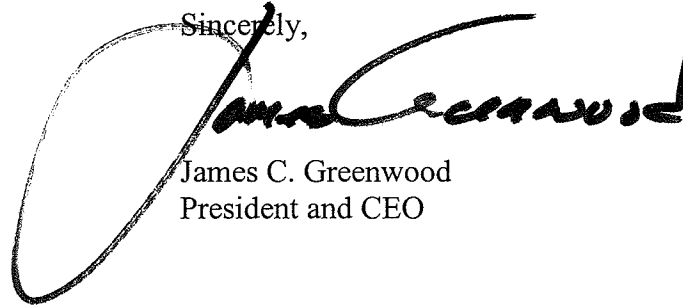


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With Russia's accession to the WTO, the level of U.S. food and agriculture exports is expected to increase meaningfully. Past experience has shown that the time to resolve these matters is *before* negotiations are concluded to ensure that U.S. farmers and food processors can truly benefit from these agreements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James C. Greenwood". The signature is written over the word "Sincerely," and extends to the right and down.

James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO