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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a comment submission for the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the United State Department of Agriculture's joint public workshop series, beginning in Iowa on March 12, 2010.

Today's agriculture market is more forward thinking and innovative than ever. The changing economy creates many challenges for farmers around the world to produce crops that satisfy the growing need to feed the world. Advancements in technology and production have not altered how farmers buy seed, rather it has created a market that is driven by a desire to produce the maximum bushels per acre while using less energy to produce the harvest. Agricultural biotechnology advances have given farmers additional economic choices as they determine the most efficient inputs and outputs for their particular situation.

Biotechnology is increasing agriculture innovation, improving production and efficiency. These breakthroughs in technology have created increased yields, reduced fuel use and have contributed to overall economic growth in the sector. These advancements only improve farm productivity and food quality – enabling farmers to produce more from their land.

With the advancement of these technologies, intellectual property rights should be protected for those who invest in research and development and who have corporate governance missions committed to advancing agriculture and ag-biotech. Strong intellectual property protection will encourage the investments needed to continue crop improvements to feed the world and add value to agriculture and society through new products, and provide farmers additional planting choices each season.

The Missouri Biotechnology Association is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to development and growth of the Missouri biotechnology and biomedical industry. By supporting basic research in the life sciences, development of a highly educated work force and providing a friendly environment for attracting and founding new business, the Missouri Biotechnology Association intends to make a significant impact on Missouri economic development. Strong science research, and strong public support for protecting the intellectual property rights of those that discover and commercialize these products is essential for additional advancements for agriculture.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gillespie
Executive Director
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