



DONALD DANFORTH  
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

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March 16, 2023

The Honorable Bill Hardwick, Chairman  
House Committee on Emerging Issues  
Missouri House of Representatives  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chairman Hardwick,

On behalf of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, I am writing to express strong opposition to House Bill 1169, legislation requiring disclosure of the contents of certain health care products and genetically modified food.

The Danforth Center is the world's largest nonprofit plant research institute dedicated to improving the human condition through plant science. Our 30 scientific teams and their collaborators are conducting cutting-edge research and developing new technologies that aim to make an impact at the nexus of food security and the environment. Through our endeavors, we aim to make the St. Louis region a world center for plant science innovation.

The Danforth Center and agri-food tech companies located on our campus at BRDG Park, and the adjacent Helix Incubator in 39 North generate an economic impact of nearly \$500 million annually.

The language introduced in the bill uses incredibly broad definitions of "gene therapy" products, and "genetically modified" processes, and will invariably lead to unintentional consequences for farmers, producers, seed suppliers, grain handling, grain storage and could layer negative connotations to buyers from our export markets.

Further, the definitions in the legislation are not consistent with federal USDA definitions. A 2016 federal law establishing a national standard for disclosure of bioengineered food also precludes state and local governments from adopting their own standards for labeling of food with genetically modified content. HB 1169 clearly violates the 2016 law's preemption provision.

For these and many other reasons, I strongly oppose HB 1169 and urge you to oppose it as well. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Please contact me via our Vice President of Public and Government Affairs, Karla Roeber, [kroeber@danforthcenter.org](mailto:kroeber@danforthcenter.org), if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James C. Carrington', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James C. Carrington, PhD  
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Dean Plocher, Speaker, Missouri House  
The Honorable Tracy McCreery, State Senator  
The Honorable LaDonna Appelbaum, State Representative  
The Honorable Holly Jones, State Representative