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March 7, 2024

The Honorable Mike Haffner, Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture Policy
Missouri House of Representatives
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chairman Haffner,

The Missouri Biotechnology Association respectfully expresses our strongest support for your committee's consideration of HB 2763, sponsored by Rep. Dane Diehl. We'd like to focus your attention on the following points:

- Round-up ready seed technologies, developed over fifty years ago, in many ways are the most important novel biotechnology research development that has occurred across the globe, and its Monsanto founders were Missouri-based. This discovery transformed plant sciences and modern agriculture practices. Farmers enjoy greater yields, use less chemical inputs, soil and root health is encouraged from the benefits of reduced soil tillage, all while maintaining the strongest safety profile for consumers, when glyphosate is used as directed.
- MOBIO serves as an important industry and private market linkage to the State of Missouri's economic development strategies. We ask that you, as state representatives, listen carefully when we amplify that Missouri only has so many world-class premier market advantages. Plant sciences is one of our absolute real winners as a state, and the explosion of plant sciences research is poised to continue to bring the necessary edge to American farmers.
- HB 2763 recognizes the importance of a national, science-based regulatory approach. Farmers fully respect the label, and our state should never lower itself to creating consumer scare tactics in labeling of any technology or process that impacts our nation's food supply. Certain fringe social media influencers are always trying to confuse consumers for their own monetary benefit, just as we saw last legislative session as promising technologies for bovine vaccines were at risk of a state-sanctioned scare tactic.
- HB 2763 sends a critical value message and true legislative clarity on how we market Missouri as a welcoming ag-tech and plant sciences ecosystem, where peer-reviewed foundational sound science is prioritized.
- The ag-tech workforce itself consists of more than 460,000 Missourians, a fact presented by The Missouri Partnership. This legislation is important to the one company still domestically producing this product, but it is also vitally important to this vast sector. Coastal trial lawyer tactics and advertising are

already making our nation's manufacturing economy weaker, we should put a stop before they harm agriculture any further.

All citizens desire that products in our food supply chain are regulated appropriately for safety and efficacy claims that can be scientifically evaluated and /or validated. The USDA and the EPA are considered the world's gold standards for their regulatory evaluations. Collectively, we should be united on strengthening the scientific depth and expertise at these important agencies.

The United States Department of Agriculture announced in 2019 it was moving two of its key agencies' headquarters to Kansas City, Missouri. USDA's Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's headquarters located at 805 Pennsylvania Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri. More than 500 new jobs shifted from the nation's capital to the heartland. HB 2763 is the type of common sense policy enactment that reaffirms then President Trump's decision to relocate these federal ag employees to our state. At a minimum, passage will be seen as having a thoughtful understanding of the appropriate roles and interactions between state and federal governmental oversight.

Thank you for allowing us to share our viewpoints on HB 2763.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Gillespie', written in a cursive style.

Kelly Gillespie
Executive Director