

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

July 13, 2016

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, urges the House to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 764, the Roberts-Stabenow biotech labeling legislation, without amendment.

The Chamber strongly supports S. 764, as biotechnology is the future of food, agriculture, and medicine and is a cornerstone of domestic investment and innovation. The issue of biotech labeling is one of the most significant issues that the agriculture and food industry has faced in recent years, and S. 764 represents a strong bipartisan effort that would provide companies and farmers with a uniform, national, and science-based framework for labeling food and ingredients.

Specifically, this legislation would prevent increased costs and the chaos that would result from myriad individual state labeling regulations. It would provide useful disclosure options for companies that would be regulated and give consumers access to more information about food products. Critically important, that information could be found without stigmatizing ingredients that are produced from, or that contain, biotechnology. This legislation would also require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to undertake a study to ensure that appropriate technology is available for all parties to easily access such information.

S. 764 strikes the right balance among providing regulatory certainty for the food supply chain, allowing consumers to obtain more information if they want it, and protecting the biotechnology industry from harmful and stigmatizing mandatory warning labels.

For these reasons, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports without additional amendment S. 764, a bipartisan measure that would create a uniform, national, and science-based framework for labeling genetically engineered food and ingredients.

The Chamber urges you to support S. 764 and may consider votes on, or in relation to, this bill, including on the Rule, in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten