

Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Bill Walker Governor of Alaska P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Alaska fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Bill Walker Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Robert Bentley Governor of Alabama State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130

# Dear Governor Bentley:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Alabama fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Robert Bentley Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson Governor of Arkansas State Capitol Building Room 250 Little Rock, AR 72201

## Dear Governor Hutchinson:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Arkansas fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Asa Hutchinson Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Doug Ducey Governor of Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower, 9th Floor 1700 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Arizona fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Doug Ducey Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown Governor of California State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

### Dear Governor Brown:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of California fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Jerry Brown Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable John Hickenlooper Governor of Colorado 136 State Capitol Building Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Colorado fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable John Hickenlooper Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Dannel Malloy Governor of Connecticut 210 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

# Dear Governor Malloy:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Connecticut fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Dannel Malloy Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Jack Markell Governor of Delaware Legislative Hall Dover, DE 19901

### Dear Governor Markell:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Delaware fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Jack Markell Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Rick Scott Governor of Florida PL 05 The Capitol 400 South Monroe Street Tallahasee, FL 32399

### Dear Governor Scott:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Florida fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Rick Scott Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Nathan Deal Governor of Georgia 203 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334

## Dear Governor Deal:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Georgia fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Nathan Deal Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG n 1 2016

The Honorable Edward Calvo Governor of Guam Executive Chamber P.O. Box 2950 Hagatna, GU 96932

### Dear Governor Calvo:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the U.S. Territory of Guam fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Edward Calvo Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable David Ige Governor of Hawaii Executive Chambers State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

# Dear Governor Ige:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Hawaii fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable David Ige Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Terry Branstad Governor of Iowa State Capitol 1007 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50322

#### Dear Governor Branstad:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Iowa fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Terry Branstad Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Butch Otter Governor of Idaho 700 West Jefferson Second Floor Boise, ID 83702

# Dear Governor Otter:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Idaho fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Butch Otter Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner Governor of Illinois State Capitol 207 Statehouse Springfield, IL 62706

### Dear Governor Rauner:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Illinois fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Bruce Rauner Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Mike Pence Governor of Indiana State House Room 206 Indianapolis, IN 46204

### Dear Governor Pence:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Indiana fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Mike Pence Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Sam Brownback Governor of Kansas State Capitol 2nd Floor Topeka, KS 66612

# Dear Governor Brownback:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Kansas fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Sam Brownback Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Matt Bevin Governor of Kentucky 700 Capital Avenue Suite 100 Frankfort, KY 40601

# Dear Governor Bevin:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Kentucky fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Matt Bevin Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

## AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable John Edwards Governor of Louisiana P.O. Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

### Dear Governor Edwards:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Louisiana fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable John Edwards Page 2

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Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

## AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Charlie Baker Governor of Massachusetts State House Room 360 Boston, MA 02133

#### Dear Governor Baker:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Massachusetts fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Charlie Baker Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Larry Hogan Governor of Maryland State House 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401

### Dear Governor Hogan:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Maryland fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Larry Hogan Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

## AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Paul LePage Governor of Maine 1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

## Dear Governor LePage:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Maine fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Paul LePage Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Rick Snyder Governor of Michigan P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Michigan fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Rick Snyder Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Mark Dayton Governor of Minnesota 130 State Capitol 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155

### Dear Governor Dayton:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Minnesota fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Mark Dayton Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Jeremiah ("Jay") Nixon Governor of Missouri Capitol Building Room 218 Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Nixon:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Missouri fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Jeremiah ("Jay") Nixon Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Phil Bryant Governor of Mississippi P.O. Box 139 Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Mississippi fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Phil Bryant Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Steve Bullock Governor of Montana P.O. Box 200801 Helena, MT 59620

#### Dear Governor Bullock:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Montana fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Steve Bullock Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Pat McCrory Governor of North Carolina 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699

## Dear Governor McCrory:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of North Carolina fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Pat McCrory Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Jack Dalrymple Governor of North Dakota 600 East Boulevard Avenue Department 101 Bismark, ND 58505

### Dear Governor Dalrymple:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of North Dakota fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Jack Dalrymple Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

## AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Pete Ricketts Governor of Nebraska P.O. Box 94848 Lincoln, NE 68509

#### Dear Governor Ricketts:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Nebraska fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Pete Ricketts Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

## AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Maggie Haasan Governor of New Hampshire 25 Capitol Street Room 212 Concord, NH 03301

#### Dear Governor Haasan:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of New Hampshire fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Maggie Haasan Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Chris Christie Governor of New Jersey 125 West State Street P.O. Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625

### Dear Governor Christie:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of New Jersey fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Chris Christie Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

## AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Susana Martinez Governor of New Mexico State Capitol Fourth Floor Santa Fe, NM 87501

### Dear Governor Martinez:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of New Mexico fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Susana Martinez Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Brian Sandoval Governor of Nevada State Capitol 101 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701

#### Dear Governor Sandoval:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Nevada fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

## The Honorable Brian Sandoval Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo Governor of New York State Capitol Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of New York fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable John Kasich Governor of Ohio 77 South High Street 30th Floor Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Ohio fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable John Kasich Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Mary Fallin Governor of Oklahoma 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard Suite 212 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

#### Dear Governor Fallin:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Oklahoma fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Mary Fallin Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Kate Brown Governor of Oregon 900 Court Street, NE Room 254 Salem, OR 97301

#### Dear Governor Brown:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Oregon fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Kate Brown Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Tom Wolf Governor of Pennsylvania Main Capitol Building Room 225 Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Pennsylvania fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Tom Wolf Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Gina Raimondo Governor of Rhode Island State House Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Rhode Island fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Gina Raimondo Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley Governor of South Carolina 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201

# Dear Governor Haley:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of South Carolina fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Nikki Haley Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard Governor of South Dakota 500 East Capitol Street Pierre, SD 57501

# Dear Governor Daugaard:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of South Dakota fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Dennis Daugaard Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Bill Haslam Governor of Tennessee State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Haslam:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Tennessee fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Bill Haslam Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78701

#### Dear Governor Abbott:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Texas fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Greg Abbott Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Gary Herbert Governor of Utah State Capitol Suite 200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114

#### Dear Governor Herbert:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Utah fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Gary Herbert Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe Governor of Virginia Patrick Henry Building 111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor Richmond, VA 23219

#### Dear Governor McAuliffe:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Virginia fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Terry McAuliffe Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

# AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Kenneth Mapp Governor of Virgin Islands Government House 21-22 Kongens Gade St. Thomas, VI 00802

### Dear Governor Mapp:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the U.S. Territory of the Virgin Islands fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Kenneth Mapp Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Peter Shumlin Governor of Vermont 109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Shumlin:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Vermont fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Peter Shumlin Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Jay Inslee Governor of Washington P.O. Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Washington fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Jay Inslee Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Scott Walker Governor of Wisconsin 115 East State Capitol P.O. Box 7863 Madison, WI 53707

#### Dear Governor Walker:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Wisconsin fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Scott Walker Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Earl Tomblin Governor of West Virginia State Capitol Complex Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of West Virginia fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Earl Tomblin Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

AUG 0 1 2016

The Honorable Matthew Mead Governor of Wyoming State Capitol 200 West 24th Street Cheyenne, WY 82002

#### Dear Governor Mead:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

I would like to call your attention to the preemption sections in this new law, which became effective upon enactment. Sections 293(e) and 295(b) provide that no State may directly or indirectly establish or continue with any food or seed requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether the food or seed is genetically engineered or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed by or produced using genetic engineering. The Congress of the Unites States included these provisions as an integral part of bringing uniformity, consistency, and clarity to biotechnology disclosures across the nation.

I would recommend that the State of Wyoming fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

# The Honorable Matthew Mead Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary



Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

The Honorable Bill Walker Governor of Alaska P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law an Act amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (Act), 7 U.S.C. § 1621 et seq., which provides for a national bioengineered food disclosure standard. Among other things, the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, including a mandatory disclosure of foods that contain bioengineering. This new law represents the first nationwide bioengineering labeling program.

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I would recommend that the State of Alaska fully review the scope and effect of this new Federal law in advance of taking any action or considering any new state initiatives related to the regulation of labels for foods that are genetically engineered or that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Once the U.S. Department of Agriculture promulgates the national bioengineered food disclosure standard, the Act allows your state to adopt standards identical to the national bioengineered food disclosure standard.

The Honorable Bill Walker Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. The Department looks forward to working with you as we develop a program that serves the needs of the American public.

Sincerely,

Edward Avalos Under Secretary Marketing and Regulatory Programs

### Identical letters sent to the following:

#### Alabama

Office of Governor Robert Bentley State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

#### Alaska

Office of Governor Bill Walker State Capitol P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811-0001

#### Arizona

Office of Governor Doug Ducey State Capitol 1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007

#### Arkansas

Office of Governor Asa Hutchinson State Capitol Room 250 Little Rock, AR 72201

#### California

Office of Governor Edmund Brown State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

#### Colorado

Office of Governor John Hickenlooper 136 State Capitol Denver, CO 80203-1792

#### Connecticut

Office of Governor Dan Malloy 210 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

#### Delaware

Office of Governor Jack Markell Legislative Hall Dover, DE 19901

#### Nebraska

Office of Governor Pete Ricketts P.O. Box 94848 Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

#### Nevada

Office of Governor Brian Sandoval Capitol Building Carson City, NV 89701

#### **New Hampshire**

Office of Governor Maggie Hassan Office of the Governor 107 North Main Street, Room 208 Concord, NH 03301

#### New Jersey

Office of Governor Chris Christie The State House P.O. Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625

#### New Mexico

Office of Governor Susana Martinez State Capitol Fourth Floor Santa Fe, NM 87501

### New York

Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo State Capitol Albany, NY 12224

#### North Carolina

Office of Governor Pat McCrory Office of the Governor 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

#### North Dakota

Office of Governor Jack Dalrymple Dept. 101 600 E. Boulevard Ave. Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

#### Florida

Office of Governor Rick Scott PL 05 The Capitol 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

#### Georgia

Office of Governor Nathan Deal 203 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334

#### Guam

Office of Governor Eddie Calvo Executive Chamber P.O. Box 2950 Agana, GU 96932

### Hawaii

Office of Governor David Ige Executive Chambers State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

#### Idaho

Office of Governor C.L "Butch" Otter 700 West Jefferson Second Floor Boise, ID 83702

#### Illinois

Office of Governor Bruce Rauner State Capitol 207 Statehouse Springfield, IL 62706

### Indiana

Office of Governor Mike Pence State House Room 206 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

#### Iowa

Office of Governor Terry Branstad State Capitol Des Moines, IA 50319-0001

#### Ohio

Office of Governor John Kasich 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215

#### Oklahoma

Office of Governor Mary Fallin Capitol Building 2300 Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 212 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

#### Oregon

Office of Governor Kate Brown State Capitol, Room 160 900 Court St. N. Salem, OR 97301

### Pennsylvania

Office of Governor Tom Wolf Room 225 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

#### Rhode Island

Office of Governor Gina Raimondo State House Providence, RI 02903

#### South Carolina

Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201

#### South Dakota

Office of Governor Dennis Daugaard 500 East Capitol Street Pierre, SD 57501

### Tennessee

Office of Governor Bill Haslam Tennessee State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243-0001

#### Kansas

Office of Governor Sam Brownback Capitol 300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 212S Topeka, KS 66612-1590

#### Kentucky

Office of Governor Matt Bevin 700 Capitol Ave., Suite 100 Frankfort, KY 40601

#### Louisiana

Office of Governor John Bel Edwards P. O. Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

#### Maine

Office of Governor Paul LePage #1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

#### Maryland

Office of Governor Larry Hogan State House 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401

### Massachusetts

Office of Governor Charlie Baker State House Office of the Governor, Room 360 Boston, MA 02133

### Michigan

Office of Governor Rick Snyder P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

#### Minnesota

Office of Governor Mark Dayton 130 State Capitol 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard St. Paul, MN 55155

#### Texas

Office of Governor Greg Abbott P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711

#### Utah

Office of Governor Gary R. Herbert Utah State Capitol Suite 200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114

#### Vermont

Office of Governor Peter Shumlin 109 State Street Pavilion Office Building Montpelier, VT 05609

### Virgin Islands

Office of Governor Kenneth Mapp Government House, 21-22 Kongens Gade Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, VI 00802

## Virginia

Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe State Capitol Third Floor Richmond, VA 23219

### Washington

Office of Governor Jay Inslee Office of the Governor P.O. Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504-0002

## West Virginia

Office of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin 1900 Kanawha Street Charleston, WV 25305

#### Wisconsin

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53707

### Mississippi

Office of Governor Phil Bryant P.O. Box 139 Jackson, MS 39205

#### Missouri

Office of Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon Capitol Building Room 216, P.O. Box 720 Jefferson City, MO 65102

#### Montana

Office of Governor Steve Bullock State Capitol Helena, MT 59620-0801

## Wyoming

Office of Governor Matthew Mead State Capitol Building Room 124 Cheyenne, WY 82002

AMS:LPS:ERF\DRM\ODA\Business Process\Correspondence(URS)\FY 16\ ODA Correspondence\ Exemption Letters to 50 Governors 07-22-2016

Approved by Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Flores

Approved by Associate Deputy Administrator, Angela Snyder

Approved by Deputy Administrator, Craig Morris

18 PM ES 7/29/16