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Gentlemen:

On Monday, May 21, 2007, the Food & Ag Section Governing Board of BIO approved a policy intended to reduce the potential for trade disruptions resulting from the current situation of asynchronous biotech plant product approvals together with “zero tolerance” for products not yet approved in some importing countries. While the long term solution to meet the need for the products of agricultural biotechnology to sustain a growing population and growth in renewable fuels is to harmonize regulatory systems and establish appropriate tolerances, Monsanto strongly supports the BIO policy as an approach to balance grower access to important new technologies with grower ability to serve their key export markets.
Monsanto Company has been committed to product life-cycle stewardship since before the first disruption raised the alarm and the level of awareness for the need for rigorous quality assurance and quality control in modern biotechnology product research, development and commercialization. We have created stewardship infrastructure and implemented aggressive stewardship policies and operations, in part as a demonstration of the Monsanto Pledge. Product stewardship is uniquely complex in a biological system, but we embrace the challenge.

For several years, we have consulted with our stakeholders in the crop and commodity associations as we prepared and implemented our stewardship plans for pre-commercial product development and commercial launch. We will continue that fully transparent consultation process.

Monsanto is hereby notifying you that we will fully implement BIO’s new Product Launch Stewardship Policy. In the near future, we will provide more specific information on our implementation of that policy, which will be as or more rigorous than the BIO policy.

If you value this BIO policy as a first step in the right direction, we hope you will encourage all companies in the sector to provide their timely commitment. Finally, if you believe we at Monsanto can do more, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

Very truly yours,

J. Thomas Carrato
Associate General Counsel
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cc: Sharon Bomer
Executive Vice President, Food & Agriculture
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