

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 30

## 92<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4501L.011

1           **Whereas**, agricultural biotechnology is being used to increase the productivity of  
2 crops, thereby improving the quality of life, by developing new high-yielding crops that require  
3 fewer inputs such as pesticides and conserve natural resources in order to increase the food  
4 supply for the increasing human population, to produce more nutritious foods with longer shelf  
5 lives, and to continue to provide consumers with high-quality, low-cost food products; and  
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7           **Whereas**, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, including those  
8 produced by biotechnology, be extensively reviewed for safety by the United States Food and  
9 Drug Administration and meet the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act  
10 before they can be sold to consumers. In addition, any changes to a food product that alters the  
11 chemical, nutritional, or allergenicity of that product must be disclosed to the consumer of the  
12 product; and  
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14           **Whereas**, foods produced through agricultural biotechnology are as safe as foods  
15 traditionally produced and the safety of agricultural biotechnology has been supported by  
16 numerous national and international health organizations, including the United Nations Food and  
17 Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the National Research Council, the  
18 American Medical Association, and the American Dietetic Association; and  
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20           **Whereas**, Missouri farmers make decisions as to what technology to use on their  
21 farms and agricultural biotechnology is a choice being made by more and more Missouri farmers  
22 on increasing acreage; and  
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24           **Whereas**, agricultural biotechnology is size neutral so both large and smaller  
25 acreage farmers can benefit from the improved weed or insect control provided by agricultural  
26 biotech seeds; and

27           **Whereas**, America's farms currently export approximately 30% of their production,  
28 and these exports significantly improve the nation's balance of payments and are important to the  
29 well-being of the entire American economy; and  
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31           **Whereas**, farm exports are essential to the financial health of agriculture and to the  
32 economic development of Missouri and other American states; and  
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34           **Whereas**, the United States government should seek timely science-based  
35 approvals of new technologies to allow United States farmers to fully utilize products or  
36 technologies fully approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Environmental  
37 Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration that will help them grow their crops  
38 with higher yields and lower costs; and  
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40           **Whereas**, strong United States intellectual property protection has been a  
41 cornerstone in allowing and encouraging new technologies, including several products of  
42 biotechnology, to be developed to benefit Missouri farmers and United States agriculture; and  
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44           **Whereas**, the lack of intellectual property protection in Argentina and other foreign  
45 countries has put United States technology providers, seed suppliers, and farmers at a  
46 competitive disadvantage:  
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48           **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
49 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
50 concurring therein, hereby:  
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52           (1) Urge the United States government to aggressively work with the European Union  
53 and other foreign countries to move the regulatory process forward in a timely manner, and  
54 without regulatory impediments, so that American farmers can fully utilize the benefits of  
55 agricultural biotechnology products;  
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57 (2) Urge the United States government to aggressively work with Argentina and other  
58 foreign countries to improve intellectual property protection for biotechnology and other new  
59 technologies related to agriculture, so that United States technology providers, seed suppliers,  
60 and farmers can have a more level playing field with respect to technology input costs;

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62 (3) Urge the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Congress, and  
63 the Legislatures of all 50 states to take whatever actions are necessary to ensure that American  
64 farmers continue to have access to these valuable tools which will enhance our competitiveness  
65 and to take all measures necessary to ensure free market access to new technologies, including  
66 agricultural biotechnology, to help sustain American farmers' leadership in global agriculture;  
67 and

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69 (4) Recommend that the United States Secretary of Agriculture and other public officials  
70 representing agriculture be included as full and equal partners in the formulation of United States  
71 policies affecting foreign trade and that the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate  
72 with state agricultural trade officials in a coordinated effort to promote agricultural exports; and

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74 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
75 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the  
76 United States Secretary of Agriculture, Ann M. Veneman, and for each member of the Missouri  
77 Congressional Delegation.