

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 154

Expressing the support of the Senate of United States efforts in the World Trade Organization to end the unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2003

Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BOND, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the support of the Senate of United States efforts in the World Trade Organization to end the unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

Whereas agricultural biotechnology is subject to the strictest Federal review in the United States, based on sound science, by the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration prior to planting and human consumption;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology has made considerable contributions to the protection of the environment by creating an environment more hospitable to wildlife and re-

ducing the application of pesticides by 46,000,000 pounds in 2001 alone;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology holds tremendous promise for greatly increasing the world's supply of nutritious and wholesome foods which will improve the quality of life and health in the developing world;

Whereas there is objective and experience-based consensus in the international scientific community, including the National Academy of Sciences, the American Medical Association, the Royal Society of London, the French Academy of Medicine, the French Academy of Sciences, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Mexican Academy of Sciences, that agricultural biotechnology is safe;

Whereas policy decisions regarding agricultural biotechnology in the European Union are being driven by politics and not by sound science;

Whereas since the late 1990s, the European Union has pursued policies that shelter its markets from competition by opposing the use of agricultural biotechnology;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology policies of the European Union have frustrated the development of modern scientific tools and plant technology that could expand the production of indigenous food products by addressing problems related to local pests, weather conditions, and vitamin deficiencies;

Whereas since its implementation in October 1998, the moratorium has blocked more than \$300,000,000 annually in United States corn exports to countries in the European Union;

Whereas the European Union's unjustified moratorium on agricultural biotechnology approvals has ramifications far beyond the United States and Europe, forcing a slow-down in the adoption and acceptance of beneficial biotechnology to the detriment of farmers and consumers around the world, and especially to starving people in the developing world;

Whereas in the fall of 2002, famine-stricken African countries rejected healthy, wholesome, United States humanitarian offers of food aid because of ill-informed health and environmental concerns and fears that future exports to Europe would be jeopardized; and

Whereas the 5-year moratorium on the approval of new agricultural biotechnology products entering the European market is not science based, effectively prohibits most United States corn exports to Europe, violates European Union law, and clearly breaches the rules of the World Trade Organization: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate supports and applauds the
 2 efforts of the Administration on behalf of the Nation's
 3 farmers, challenging the long-standing, unwarranted mor-
 4 atorium imposed by the European Union on the approval
 5 of agricultural biotechnology products and encourages the
 6 President to continue to press this issue at the G-8 Sum-
 7 mit in Evian, France, on June 1 through 3, 2003.

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