



May 31, 2010

Dear Senator Tester:

We are writing to ask you to join the attached congressional sign-on letter regarding genetically engineered (GE) alfalfa. As you may know, Senator Leahy and Representative DeFazio are asking their colleagues to join this letter addressed to USDA about the GE alfalfa Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and importance of maintaining the ban on buying and planting this variety.

We are also writing to formally request a meeting with you over the June recess to discuss the attached letter, share what we see as problematic in the draft EIS, and hear your perspective.

As Montana organizations representing farmers with serious concerns about the impact of GE alfalfa on our markets, on the credibility of the organic label, and on the integrity of our seed, we are encouraged that various members of congress are paying attention to these concerns. Many of our organizational members contributed to the 200,000 comments that USDA received in response to its draft EIS on GE alfalfa. Not since the proposed organic rule in 1997 has USDA received such a huge outpouring of public comments. Clearly this is an issue in need of further examination and action.

We know you share some of these concerns and hope you'll join your colleagues in asking USDA to fully review the facts, law, and science as this process moves forward.

Thank you for your work on so many issues, and for your strong support of Montana's agricultural community. We look forward to hearing from you about this letter and your availability over the June recess.

Sincerely,

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