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association

June 6, 2018

Dr. Nancy B. Beck, DABT
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Deputy Assistant Administrator
1201 Constitution Ave., NW (7101M)
WJC East, Room 3148A
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Nancy,

On behalf of ASTA and our members, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the time you took out of your schedule to discuss the future of plant breeding innovation. I think the passion and excitement of the diverse group was clear. If an appropriate policy framework can be applied, tools such as gene editing will have a tremendous impact on our ability to sustainably address a wide-range of challenges.

Gene editing was identified as an important technological innovation to improve livelihoods in rural America in the report of the *Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity*. By working collaboratively with USDA and FDA, EPA can help secure the future for plant breeding and innovation. However, over regulation will have a stifling effect on U.S. leadership in agriculture.

We appreciate that you and your team are open to continued dialogue. As I noted in the meeting, a large group of food value chain and academic organizations have a strong interest in ensuring that these tools remain broadly available. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the groups that participated in the meeting for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. LaVigne
President & CEO

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**Meeting Participants
May 17, 2018**

Andy LaVigne	ASTA
Bernice Slutsky	ASTA
Jane DeMarchi	ASTA
Elizabeth Stulberg	Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies
Andrew Walmsley	American Farm Bureau Federation
John Gordley	American Soybean Association
Tyrone Spady	American Society of Plant Biologists
Clint Nesbitt	BIO
Katharine Emerson	National Corn Growers Association
Joe Bischoff	Produce Marketing Association