



AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER
Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana
August 25, 2017

Indiana Agribusiness PAC Needs Your Support

Over the past few years, the Agribusiness Council of Indiana has been successful in advocating for better policies and legislation on behalf of our members. However, as we all know, it's getting more difficult to connect with the legislators who do not understand the needs of our agribusinesses. Therefore, it is critical for our members to become engaged in the Indiana Agribusiness PAC so we can continue to make progress at the Statehouse on various issues. Please learn more about our PAC and how to contribute by clicking **HERE** to read the letter from PAC Chair Harold Coopers, Premier Ag, and PAC Treasurer Jay Shining, McAllister's Machinery Co.

ACI Government Affairs Survey

The ACI Government Affairs Committee is seeking input from members about their policy engagement and more. Please click [HERE](#) to take a short survey which will help the committee develop communications, programming and more.

NGFA responds to USDA questions on implementing biotech food labeling law: The NGFA today is submitting recommendations specific to the interests of the grain, feed and processing industry in response to questions posed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on how to implement various aspects of the federal bioengineering food labeling law.

The law was enacted by Congress in 2015 to federally preempt states or other government subdivisions from creating a patchwork of varying biotech labeling laws across the country, such as one that was scheduled to take effect in Vermont.

"As you develop the proposed rule for the bioengineered food disclosure standard, the agricultural value chain - including grain handlers - believes it is crucial for your agency to follow congressional intent of this act," the NGFA noted in its comments to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), emphasizing the law's clear statutory intent that food is not subject to the mandatory disclosure requirement solely because it is derived from animals fed bioengineered substances.

Among its requests specific to grain and feed handlers, the NGFA suggested USDA provide for a 5 percent threshold for the presence of a bioengineered substance in a food before it is required to be labeled as bioengineered. The NGFA noted that a 5 percent cumulative threshold level would be consistent with what is permitted under the National Organic Program, another marketing program administered by AMS, as well as recognize what is achievable given living plant organisms in nature.

The NGFA also supported another lengthy statement submitted by the Coalition on Safe Affordable Food, which the NGFA helped author as a member of the group's steering committee. A complete report on the recommendations submitted by the NGFA and the coalition will be reported in the Aug. 30 *NGFA Newsletter*.

Indiana Department of Labor Agriculture Worker Safety & Health Webinar

The Indiana Department of Labor works to collaborate with industry stakeholders on educating employees about work-related safety and health. Please [click here](#) to review the webinar and presentation and use it as a resource in your workplace.

Please contact Mark Shublak at mark.shublak@icemiller.com or Lesa Dietrick at lesa.dietrick@icemiller.com if you have any questions