

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361-A Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 2010

The Honorable John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McConnell and Speaker Boehner:

As you may know, during consideration of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by the Finance Committee, the Committee agreed to an amendment by Senators Stabenow and Roberts to increase technical assistance for agricultural trade to AGOA eligible countries.

This amendment prioritizes agricultural trade technical assistance for businesses and sectors that engage women farmers and entrepreneurs. It also broadens the type of technical assistance available to include food safety standards. Lastly, this amendment directs the President to coordinate all executive branch efforts, including the Department of Agriculture, to assess and identify which AGOA eligible countries should receive agricultural trade capacity building and technical assistance and to harmonize implementation.

Given the importance of agriculture to African development and African-US trade, we urge the Conferees to accept this provision in the final AGOA legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Soybean Association

Bread for the World

Congressional Hunger Center

Didion Milling

Edesia

Monsanto

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA

National Corn Growers Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Framers Union

North American Millers' Association

Syngenta

USA Rice Federation

World Food Program USA