



June 16, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
United States Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Stabenow and Thompson, Ranking Members Boozman and Scott,

Biocom California thanks you for the opportunity to submit input on the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization. The passage of the 2018 Farm Bill has enabled innovation in the field of cellular and plant-based agriculture, biorenewable energy, and other biobased products that have propelled the energy and agriculture biotechnology industry forward. Our members are dedicated to solving the challenges of food scarcity and insecurity, improving sustainability in everyday consumer goods, protecting our environmental resources, and combating climate change by ushering in a new wave of biobased products. **As you advance the 2023 Farm Bill, Biocom California urges timely reauthorization and requests that you support the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) BioPreferred Purchasing Program and loan guarantee programs, and provide both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and USDA with ample resources to implement Farm Bill policies.**

Biocom California is the largest, most experienced leader and advocate for California's life science sector, which includes biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, genomics, diagnostics, and cell and plant-based manufacturing companies of all sizes, as well as research universities and institutes, clinical research organizations, investors and service providers. With more than 1,700 members dedicated to improving health and quality of life, Biocom California drives public policy initiatives to positively influence the state's life science community in the research, development, and delivery of innovative products. California's life sciences industry generates over \$414 billion in annual economic activity, supports 1.2 million jobs, and increases labor income by \$130 billion per year¹.

Biocom California supports strengthening the USDA 9002 BioPreferred Program and expanding government procurement of biobased products. The BioPreferred Program was established to increase the purchase and use of biobased products by the U.S. government. Federal procurement of these products can reduce dependencies and stimulate innovation by creating a

¹ Biocom California 2023 Economic Impact Report Databook. <https://www.biocom.org/eir/>

market for new, disruptive technologies. For these products to be bought by the federal government, the development of North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for these products is needed so they may be available to government procurement officials. We recognize that Congress requested the creation of these NAICS codes for biobased products in the 2018 Farm Bill. As we await the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) creation of these critical codes, we request that the 2023 Farm Bill reaffirm the need for OMB to produce these codes in a timely manner and set acquisition goals for federal procurement of biobased products. Additionally, guidance continues to be needed on the inclusion of biobased products within existing NAICS categories for plastics, chemicals, textiles, and apparel in order to guide purchasing.

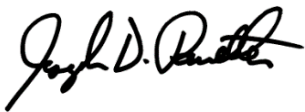
Biocom California supports expanding loan guarantee programs, specifically the USDA 9003 Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program loan guarantee program, by raising or removing the \$250 million cap on loan guarantees. This program provides accessible loan guarantees of up to \$250 million to assist in the development, construction, and retrofitting of new and emerging technologies, specifically advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products. By increasing or removing loan guarantee size caps, this program can help companies secure additional resources to help the industry bridge funding gaps between R&D and manufacturing and conquer the valley of death in scaling the product up to meet potential demand.

Biocom California supports codifying and funding the USDA's Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program. The Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program is part of USDA's Build Back Better initiative to strengthen critical supply chains and our food system and was funded by the American Rescue Plan. This program guarantees loans of up to \$40 million for qualified lenders to finance food systems projects that enhance the food supply chain in the U.S. Biocom California supports adding language that codifies this program to the Farm Bill, providing the funds needed to administer the program, increasing the loan cap from \$40 million to \$100 million to ensure its long-term success, and guaranteeing coordination with USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. We also recommend that the program maintain its zero geographic eligibility restrictions and flexibility in how the funds can be used to allow innovation to thrive in the U.S. food system.

Finally, Biocom California supports robust funding for FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). These programs need funds in order to implement the [joint regulatory framework for cell-cultured foods](#) and carry out their food safety missions. CFSAN has urgent staffing needs in order to keep pace with the speed at which the cellular agriculture industry is advancing, on top of its current workload to help safeguard more than \$1.5 trillion worth of food, cosmetics, and dietary supplements. Many of the teams within CFSAN have a handful of employees who must both review products and develop guidance for industry, which creates a delicate balance of resources. Funding for additional full-time employees would provide relief for both FDA and industry. Businesses need a timely and reliable regulatory structure to continue the investment and development that lead to commercialized advancements that will feed the world's growing population. In addition, increased resources will support innovation and adoption of new technologies, improve transparency, and ensure a sustainable food supply for all Americans.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the 2023 Farm Bill. If you have any questions about these priorities, please contact Biocom California's Manager of Federal Advocacy, Rick White (rwhite@biocom.org). We look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislation advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe D. Panetta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Joe Panetta
President and CEO
Biocom California