

State Agriculture and Rural Leaders

Resolution 11-3

Resolution Urging USDA to Deregulate Biotech Products, Based on Science and Without Conditions

WHEREAS: American agriculture has an impressive track record of successfully addressing the economic and market-based issues associated with coexistence, whether neighbor-to-neighbor or through state seed certifying agencies or other local, state or regional initiatives; and

WHEREAS: USDA has indicated that it may deregulate biotech alfalfa with certain conditions. Many grower-based organizations strongly believe that a conditional deregulation is not science-based, and would restrict or even eliminate the use of a valuable tool from growers in many parts of this country; and

WHEREAS: in the field of agricultural biotechnology, growers have worked closely with the seed industry to meet their respective stewardship obligations through contractual arrangements and other mechanisms. That is where matters of coexistence and stewardship are addressed most effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS: issues of coexistence are best dealt with farmer-to-farmer, or at the state level, and any proposals to change U.S. government policy on agricultural biotechnology regulation must be done through a thoughtful dialogue inclusive of all U.S. government agencies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that State Agricultural and Rural Leaders urge the Secretary of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture continue to make regulatory decisions on sound science.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture, The United States Congress and the agriculture committees of the state legislatures.