**FACT SHEET on HB3085 (GMO Labeling)**

The Illinois-based groups listed below represent tens of thousands of Illinois residents who are concerned with Illinois House Bill 3085. HB3085 would require foods grown from the process of genetic modification to be labeled in the state of Illinois.

We support accurate and informative product labeling that communicates to consumers material information relevant to health, safety, and nutrition. Misleading labeling information makes informed consumer choices more difficult and we feel HB3085 has the potential to do this.

Illinois is first in the nation in soybean production and is second only to Iowa in the production of corn. Well over 90% of all corn and soybeans grown in our great state are from genetically modified seeds. Superior yields, reduced tillage trips that reduce fuel usage and soil erosion, utilization of less toxic pesticides to manage insects and weeds, as well as labor savings are just a few of the reasons Illinois farmers (and farmers around the globe) rely heavily on biotechnology.

Providing consumers with safe products is our number one priority, and we understand that some consumers have questions about genetically modified food ingredients. The use of genetically modified (GM) ingredients is not only safe for people and our planet, but also has a number of important benefits, as follows:

- GM technology adds genetic traits to plants, without introducing anything unnatural or using chemicals, so that food is more plentiful.

- Ingredients grown using GM technology require fewer pesticides, less water, and keep production costs down.

- GM technology helps reduce the price of crops used for food, such as corn and soybeans, by as much as 15-30%.

- 1 in 8 people in the world do not have enough to eat. As the world population continues to grow, safe and effective methods of food production, like crops produced through GM technology, can help us feed the hungry and malnourished in developing nations around the world.

- A study conducted in California found that mandatory GMO labeling would increase an average family’s grocery bill by $400 annually.

GM technology is not new, in fact, it has been around for more than 20 years. Today, 70-80% of the foods we eat in the United States, both at home and away from home, contain ingredients that have been genetically modified. If the ingredient label on any food or beverage product contains corn or soy, they most likely contain genetically modified ingredients, as a very high percentage of those crops grown in the U.S. use GM technology.
We will continue to advocate for the continued safe and effective use of agricultural biotechnology to increase the food supply while lowering cost to the consumer. We will continue to engage in an informative dialogue with our consumers so that they understand the safety, prevalence and benefits of GM technology and can make informed choices for themselves and their families.

Consumers who prefer to avoid foods that may contain GM have a simple choice that is already readily available: They can purchase food that is labeled “organic.”

The American Medical Association, the American Council on Health, the American Academy on the Advancement of Science, and numerous other science-based groups have all approved FDA’s approach to labeling. To have a state that contains the most productive and advanced food producers in the world attempt to supersede the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on this issue shows poor judgment towards Illinois consumers, farmers, and the entire food industry.

Please consider voting NO on HB3085.

Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
Grain & Feed Association of Illinois
Grocery Manufacturers Association
GROWMARK
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (IBIO)
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Illinois Manufacturers Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Illinois Seed Trade Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Midwest Food Processors Association