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**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1004**

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AND CAPABILITIES

STRATEGIC FORCES

September 29, 2016

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte,

I write to request a hearing to address the alarming and unprecedented wave of consolidation in the agricultural sector. The proposed DowDuPont, Bayer-Monsanto, and ChemChina-Syngenta mergers are some of the most significant developments in modern industrial history and may have devastating repercussions for our Nation's farmers and consumers.

Today, only six firms—Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer, DuPont, Dow and BASF—operate the majority of the agricultural biotechnology, seed, and chemical sectors.<sup>1</sup> I am concerned that the proposed mergers of DowDuPont, Bayer-Monsanto, and ChemChina-Syngenta would result in even more consolidation in these markets, undermining innovation and resulting in fewer choices and higher prices for farmers and consumers.<sup>2</sup> Individually, these proposed mergers would likely reshape these industries in fundamental ways with far-reaching and indeterminable consequences. Collectively, these transactions are almost certain to reduce competition significantly. As Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) recently observed, this industry is "on the precipice of a significant structural transformation" as the waves of consolidation in these markets have "become a tsunami."<sup>3</sup>

American farmers and consumers deserve more and better choices, not less innovation and higher prices. I believe that a hearing is necessary to provide additional oversight into this issue. A close examination of these transactions by the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,

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<sup>1</sup> Hearing on Consolidation and Competition in the U.S. Seed and Agrochemical Industry Before the S. Subcomm. on Antitrust and Consumer Protection of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 114th Cong. 2016 (statement of Diana Moss, President, American Antitrust Institute), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/download/09-20-16-moss-testimony>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 2 (statement of Roger Johnson, President, National Farmers Union), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/09-20-16%20Johnson%20Testimony.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 12 (statement of Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/09-20-16%20Grassley%20Statement.pdf>

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Commercial and Antitrust Law would offer a productive opportunity to discuss consolidation in these markets generally and whether potential reforms or stronger enforcement are necessary to encourage competition.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact my staff, Slade Bond, at (202) 225-6906.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hank Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,  
Commercial and Antitrust Law  
Committee on the Judiciary