

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2447

To establish a Federal interagency task force to promote the benefits, safety, and potential uses of agricultural biotechnology to improve human and animal nutrition, increase crop productivity, and improve agricultural sustainability while ensuring the safety of food and the environment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. WELLER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HYDE, Mr. BEREUTER, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. HALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a Federal interagency task force to promote the benefits, safety, and potential uses of agricultural biotechnology to improve human and animal nutrition, increase crop productivity, and improve agricultural sustainability while ensuring the safety of food and the environment.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO PRO-**
2 **MOTE THE BENEFITS, SAFETY, AND POTEN-**
3 **TIAL USES OF AGRICULTURAL BIO-**
4 **TECHNOLOGY.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE
6 TO PROMOTE BENEFITS, SAFETY, AND POTENTIAL USES
7 OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY.—There is estab-
8 lished the “Federal Interagency Task Force to Promote
9 the Benefits, Safety, and Potential Uses of Agricultural
10 Biotechnology” (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
11 “task force”) for the purpose of improving interagency co-
12 operation and to develop and disseminate accurate written
13 scientific information on the benefits, safety, and potential
14 uses of agricultural biotechnology.

15 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the task force
16 shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of
17 Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the United States
18 Trade Representative, the Administrator of the United
19 States Agency for International Development, and the Di-
20 rector of the National Science Foundation. The Secretary
21 of State shall chair the task force. Members of the task
22 force may designate a senior official from the appropriate
23 participating Federal agency to attend meetings of the
24 task force.

1 (c) OBJECTIVES OF TASK FORCE.—The task force
2 shall coordinate the activities of the participating agencies
3 to—

4 (1) improve the knowledge of foreign assigned
5 individuals from the participating agencies regarding
6 the safety and potential of biotechnology-derived ag-
7 ricultural products, including regulatory safeguards
8 that assure food and environmental safety;

9 (2) expand the dissemination by participating
10 agencies of scientifically-based facts regarding the
11 safety and potential of biotechnology-derived agricul-
12 tural products;

13 (3) improve the ability of the participating
14 agencies to advocate to foreign countries the benefits
15 that agricultural biotechnology can potentially pro-
16 vide for human and animal nutrition, the environ-
17 ment, crop productivity, and agricultural sustain-
18 ability; and

19 (4) achieve a better understanding by foreign
20 countries of the potential benefits of agricultural bio-
21 technology to develop products that can be grown
22 under local soil and climate conditions and better
23 meet the health and nutritional needs of local popu-
24 lations.

25 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than one year after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, and bian-
3 nually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit
4 to the Congress a report on the activities undertaken
5 by the task force and the participating agencies to
6 promote the benefits, safety, and potential uses of
7 agricultural biotechnology.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A report submitted
9 under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

10 (A) measures taken to coordinate and com-
11 municate, as appropriate, the scientific evidence
12 on the benefits, safety, and potential uses of ag-
13 ricultural biotechnology;

14 (B) progress toward achieving coordination
15 under subsection (c);

16 (C) the success of efforts coordinated
17 under subsection (c);

18 (D) efforts to advance the goals of sub-
19 section (c) in developing nations; and

20 (E) recommendations to improve the ac-
21 tivities of the participating agencies pertaining
22 to communicating benefits, safety, and potential
23 uses of biotechnology.

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