

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4651

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

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

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 INTERNATIONAL USES OF AGRICUL-**
4 **TURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY TASK
6 FORCE.—There is established the “Federal Interagency
7 Task Force to Promote the Benefits, Safety, and Potential
8 Uses of Agricultural Biotechnology Overseas” (in this sec-
9 tion referred to as the “task force”) for the purpose of
10 improving interagency cooperation and to develop and dis-
11 seminate accurate written scientific information outside
12 the United States on the benefits, safety, and potential
13 uses of agricultural biotechnology.

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

24 (c) OBJECTIVES OF TASK FORCE.—The task force
25 shall coordinate the activities of the participating agencies
26 regarding the following:

1 (1) Improved knowledge of foreign-assigned in-
2 dividuals from the participating agencies regarding
3 the safety and potential of biotechnology-derived ag-
4 ricultural products, including regulatory safeguards
5 that assure food and environmental safety, for the
6 purpose of encouraging the use of such bio-
7 technology-derived agricultural products by foreign
8 countries.

9 (2) Expanded dissemination outside the United
10 States by participating agencies of scientifically-
11 based facts regarding the safety and potential of bio-
12 technology-derived agricultural products.

13 (3) Improved ability of the participating agen-
14 cies 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.

19 (4) Achievement of a better understanding by
20 foreign countries of the potential benefits of agricul-
21 tural biotechnology to develop products that can be
22 grown under local soil and climate conditions and
23 better meet the health and nutritional needs of local
24 populations.

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 Congress a report on the activities undertaken by
5 the task force and the participating agencies to pro-
6 mote the benefits, safety, and potential uses of agri-
7 cultural biotechnology outside the United States.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report submitted
9 under paragraph (1) shall include a description of
10 the Following:

11 (A) Measures taken to coordinate and com-
12 municate, as appropriate, the scientific evidence
13 on the benefits, safety, and potential uses of ag-
14 ricultural biotechnology outside the United
15 States.

16 (B) Progress made toward achieving co-
17 ordination under subsection (c).

18 (C) The success of efforts coordinated
19 under subsection (c).

20 (D) Efforts to advance the goals of sub-
21 section (c) in developing nations.

22 (E) Recommendations to improve the ac-
23 tivities of the participating agencies pertaining

- 1 to communicating benefits, safety, and potential
- 2 uses of biotechnology outside the United States.

