

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

May 26, 2015

Alexander Mora  
Minister of Foreign Trade  
Ministry of Foreign Trade  
San José  
Costa Rica

Dear Minister Mora,

I am writing to raise a serious matter for your urgent attention regarding efforts in Costa Rica to impose a moratorium on cultivation of agricultural biotechnology products.

I understand the Costa Rican government has stressed the importance of new technologies to the productivity and competitiveness of Costa Rican farmers. Genetically engineered crops have created economic and environmental benefits, allowing farmers to use fewer and safer pesticides while improving crop yield, and increasing farmer income. There is a successful track record in Costa Rica of production of genetically engineered seed, and Costa Rican researchers are working on the development of several genetically engineered products to address agricultural challenges in Costa Rica.

I was therefore surprised and disappointed to learn about efforts within your government, I believe at the Agriculture Ministry, to impose a moratorium on cultivation of agricultural biotechnology products, including as proposed through the draft law 19477.

I request your assistance in raising this issue within the Costa Rican government for consideration of the severe potential negative impact of this proposed moratorium, including on science-based decision-making, innovation and investment in Costa Rica as well the close partnership between our two countries through the CAFTA-DR. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this and other important issues regarding agricultural trade between our two countries.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Darci L. Vetter  
Chief Agricultural Negotiator

This letter was first published online by: [http://www.nacion.com/economia/agro/EE-UU-proyecto-moratoria-transgenicos\\_0\\_1490450959.html](http://www.nacion.com/economia/agro/EE-UU-proyecto-moratoria-transgenicos_0_1490450959.html)