



*U.S. Canola Association
600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 320
Washington, DC 20003
Phone (202) 969-8113*

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
Ambassador
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

On behalf of the U.S. Canola Association (USCA), I write to ask that you encourage your counterparts in China to honor their commitment to complete biotech approvals in an average of two years, a commitment that was included in the US-China Phase I agreement signed earlier this year. Your intervention would ensure that Chinese regulatory actions do not delay U.S. canola producers access to the latest seed technologies or undermine broader incentives for U.S. agricultural innovation.

The National Biosafety Committee in China is expected to review early next week a new canola seed trait - Optimum GLY - also known as DP-73496. This Corteva Agriscience seed product, which first entered into the Chinese regulatory system in 2012, provides farmers enhanced weed control and will bring new technology options and competition to the U.S. canola seed market. Because commodity streams in North America are comingled, approval of new seed traits is required for commercialization of new canola seed for U.S. farmers.

The fact that Optimum GLY has languished in the Chinese regulatory bureaucracy for 8 years is a prime example of why timely biotech approvals needed to be included in the Phase I agreement, and USCA believes that advancing this seed trait now would show China's intention to honor the regulatory commitments they agreed to in the Phase I agreement.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request, and all the work you and your staff have done on behalf of U.S. farmers.

Respectfully yours,

Pat Murphy
President,
U.S. Canola Association

Cc: Ambassador Gregg Doud, Chief Agriculture Negotiator
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Ted McKinney, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs
U.S. Department of Agriculture