

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3472

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BEREUTER, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. HALL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. WELLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## 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” (in this section referred to as the “task  
11 force”) for the purpose of improving interagency coopera-  
12 tion and to develop and disseminate accurate written sci-  
13 entific 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 Agriculture, the Secretary  
17 of State, 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 Agriculture shall chair the task force. Members of the  
22 task force may designate a senior official from the appro-  
23 priate participating Federal agency to attend meetings of  
24 the task force.

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

4 (1) Improved knowledge of foreign-assigned in-  
5 dividuals 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) Expanded dissemination by participating  
10 agencies of scientifically-based facts regarding the  
11 safety and potential of biotechnology-derived agricul-  
12 tural products.

13 (3) Improved ability of the participating agen-  
14 cies to advocate to foreign countries, including devel-  
15 oping nations, the benefits that agricultural bio-  
16 technology can potentially provide for human and  
17 animal nutrition, the environment, crop productivity,  
18 and agricultural sustainability.

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

25 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1           (1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than one year after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually  
3           thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit  
4           to the congressional committees specified in para-  
5           graph (3) a report on the activities undertaken by  
6           the task force and the participating agencies to pro-  
7           mote the benefits, safety, and potential uses of agri-  
8           cultural biotechnology.

9           (2) CONTENT.—Each report under paragraph  
10          (1) shall include information from each member of  
11          the task force regarding the measures taken, and  
12          progress made, to achieve the objectives of the task  
13          force described in subsection (c).

14          (3) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—Each re-  
15          port under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the  
16          following congressional committees:

17                 (A) The Committee on Agriculture of the  
18                 House of Representatives.

19                 (B) The Committee of Energy and Com-  
20                 merce of the House of Representatives.

21                 (C) The Committee on International Rela-  
22                 tions of the House of Representatives.

23                 (D) The Committee on Science of the  
24                 House of Representatives.

1           (E) The Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
2           tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

3           (F) The Committee on Commerce, Science,  
4           and Transportation of the Senate.

5           (G) The Committee on Foreign Relations  
6           of the Senate.

7           (e) DURATION.—The task force shall terminate 10  
8           years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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