

June 6, 2017

Dear Representative Jay West,

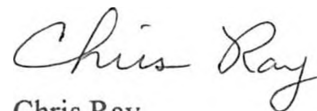
This is a letter on the behalf of Brent Murdock of US Seedless, LLC and Highmark Seeds concerning the nature of the security needs for a plant breeding research farm.

It is important to limit access and provide a high level of security for a commercial plant breeding research farm. The intellectual property from plant breeding research is the fruit of crosses and the development of new and potentially very profitable seed that could be stolen or destroyed. Therefore, limited and controlled access to production greenhouses and fields is critical to protect the genetic lines that are used to develop new varieties.

Plant breeding farms are different from other farms in terms of long term consequences of theft, invasion or vandalism. Most other farms sell large quantities of a few varieties to a market that is based on a fixed fee. For plant breeding farms, stolen fruit of a selected crop can represent a loss of thousands of dollars of research and financial potential in new varieties that would be developed. Invaded fields could also pose a contamination risk of the crop for bio-security measures. Please take these important considerations into account for any decisions that would affect a plant breeding research farm's ability to function securely.

US Seedless, LLC and Highmark Seeds is located at 3124 Trail Road, Belton, in Anderson County, SC and is a nationally recognized plant breeding research farm with over 20,000 square feet of greenhouses and 250 acres of land devoted to watermelon research.

Sincerely,



Chris Ray
Director
Clemson University Experiment Station

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