



December 12, 2017

Ms. Betsy Cohen
St. Louis Mosaic Project/St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
120 South Central, Suite 1200
St. Louis, MO 63105

RE: Support for Seal of Biliteracy on Missouri High School Transcripts

Dear Ms. Cohen,

As you may know, KWS is a global leading plant breeding company formed over 160 years ago and is now operating in over 70 countries.

In 2015, we launched the KWS Gateway Research Center in St. Louis that currently staffs approximately 35 people, with a plan to double this number in the next 5-8 years. We house a diverse community of scientists, research associates, business development and administration personnel of which 40 percent speak more than one language. Our group demonstrates fluency in English, German, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Phillipian and Japanese.

We consider these additional languages to be important for our continued global success, particularly for long-term international collaborations and scientific exchange. The ability to communicate in a second language is a very valuable skill that brings together diverse thinking and broad ideas to drive continued innovation, which we see as important for securing a sustainable future agriculture.

In addition to being a portal for communication worldwide, the ability to speak a second language demonstrates a competency necessary for students to be competitive in today's global workforce. We therefore strongly encourage the Seal of Biliteracy on Missouri High School Transcripts and are pleased to support this program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Derek Bartlem
Managing Director

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