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Dear Stakeholder

This letter is an invitation to attend a meeting to identify new ideas and approaches to stem the selection for and spread of herbicide resistant weeds. As you are aware, herbicide resistance is increasing in rate, magnitude, and geographic scope and our current practices are not durable.

If herbicide resistance continues to escalate, we are concerned that the agricultural enterprise will incur increasing economic costs and inconvenience as well as potential social conflicts extending from the farm family, to the local community and society as a whole.

As representatives of the Weed Science Society of America we would like to invite you to attend a Herbicide Resistance Management (HRM) Listening Session to be held during the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas on the afternoon of Saturday, March 4th in the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center Room 007 C&D. Lunch will be provided starting at noon and the session will end around 5 p.m. If you are interested and available please confirm with either Christy Sprague (sprague1@msu.edu; 517-353-0224) or Jeff Gunsolus (gunso001@umn.edu; 612-625-8130) by February 10, 2017 as to whether you will attend the listening session.

You were specifically identified as a stakeholder who could help chart a path forward to deal with this problem. The objective of this listening session, is for us to listen to people like yourself because, frankly, despite the many efforts of extension, industry, state and federal agencies, herbicide resistance continues to get worse.

This regional listening sessions is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the United Soybean Board, Syngenta, and the Weed Science Society of America and is one of seven being held around the country.

Our primary objective is to listen to you, a key stakeholder rather than for you to listen to weed scientists talk! Our goals/outcomes from these sessions include:

- An understanding, from those making weed management decisions in the field, of the challenges and barriers to practicing HRM.
- Identification of experiences and successes that could lead to new innovative approaches for HRM that can be incorporated into best management practice plans.
- Establishment of specific information and/or incentives needed for effective HRM so they can be recommended to agencies and industry as well as state and federal policy makers.
- Identification of effective community based strategies for management of herbicide resistance to avoid additional state and federal (EPA and other agency) regulations on herbicide use and other weed management practices.

Armed with the vital information gathered from your and the other regional sessions, we will work with all stakeholders to develop more effective approaches to manage resistance.

Thank you in advance for considering this request. We hope you will agree to participate in this important activity in the battle against herbicide resistance.