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December 16, 2009

Mr. W. Lyle Roberts  
Executive Director  
Illinois Soybean Board  
1605 Commerce Parkway  
Bloomington, IL 61704-9608

Dear Lyle,

As you mark the tenth anniversary of the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, I am reminded of your vision that inspired that program.

In late 1998, you and I first discussed the idea of bringing together the expertise of non-governmental organizations working in developing countries with experts in soy to see how those products could better serve the needs of the very young, people suffering from infectious disease and poorly nourished populations. Following your inspiration, during the next year, University of Illinois scientists, food industry technologists and food security practitioners, including Alliance members, participated in joint educational, needs assessment and program development efforts. By 2000, your vision became a full-blown plan – the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health.

Soy producers and processors were already aware of the multiple nutritional benefits possible from the use of their products. But, with your leadership, they took on the bigger challenge of addressing the “nutrition gap” in less developed countries and raised awareness among their friends, colleagues, and policymakers of the importance of this task.

With great appreciation for your hard work and leadership in the fight against hunger, I send my congratulations and sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Levinson".

Ellen Levinson  
Executive Director

Adventist Development & Relief Agency International ♦ ACDI/VOCA ♦ Africare ♦ Counterpart International ♦ Feed The Children  
Food for the Hungry ♦ Joint Aid Management ♦ International Relief & Development ♦ Land O'Lakes ♦ OIC International  
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