

Attorneys At Law

Russ Building / 235 Montgomery Street San Francisco / CA 94104

T 415.954.4400 / F 415.954.4480 www.fbm.com

April 8, 2010

Via ECF

The Honorable Joseph C. Spero United States District Court Northern District of California, San Francisco Division Courtroom A, 15th Floor 450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Center for Food Safety, et al. v. Tom Vilsack, et al.

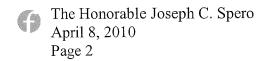
Case No. 3:08-cv-0484-JSW

Dear Judge Spero:

Plaintiffs and Defendant-Intervenors Betaseed, Inc., SESVanderHave USA, Inc. and Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (collectively, "Requesting Parties") hereby jointly request, as set forth below, that the Court modify the requirement established in the Notice of Reference and Order re Discovery Procedures ("Discovery Order") (Document 188, filed December 14, 2009) that lead trial counsel for the parties "meet and confer in person" before filing a discovery motion in the action referenced above.

A discovery dispute has arisen in the action referenced above. The Requesting Parties are the parties directly involved in the dispute. The primary issue in the dispute is the application of the work product doctrine to a category of documents that Plaintiffs have sought in a request for production. Counsel for the Requesting Parties have exchanged e-mails regarding their respective positions and have conferred by telephone on multiple occasions. Subsequently, Plaintiffs demanded a "meeting of lead trial counsel" pursuant to the Discovery Order (¶ 1, at 2), offering to meet in San Francisco absent relief from the Discovery Order, if such meeting can be arranged on April 12 or 13, 2010.

The Requesting Parties jointly request that the Court permit the respective lead trial counsel for the Requesting Parties to meet and confer by telephone conference call instead of "in person." Alternatively, the Requesting Parties request that the Court permit lead trial counsel to participate by phone in a meeting that respective local San Francisco counsel for the Requesting Parties would attend in person. Lead trial counsel for one of the Plaintiffs is located in Honolulu, Hawaii; and lead trial counsel for Defendant-Intervenors Betaseed, Inc., SESVanderHave USA, Inc. and Syngenta Seeds, Inc. are located in New York, New York, Kansas City, Missouri and Washington, D.C., respectively. The expense to the Requesting Parties for lead trial counsel to travel to San Francisco to "meet and confer in person" is substantial and would be avoided, if this



request were to be granted. In addition, lead trial counsel for Syngenta Seeds, Inc. has a health problem that precludes her from traveling for at least ten days.

Finally, if the Court were to deny the request to permit *all* lead trial counsel to participate by phone, the Requesting Parties request that the Court allow the Requesting Parties to satisfy the Discovery Order requirement by having one lead trial counsel represent the four Plaintiffs and one lead trial counsel represent the three Defendant-Intervenors at an "in person" meeting regarding the dispute. Such a limited modification of the Discovery Order would be in the spirit of the Court's requirement that the parties submit joint briefs on issues and would also address the health problem mentioned above.

The Requesting Parties are attempting to schedule any required "in person" meeting in San Francisco on April 12 or 13, 2010. Consequently, the Requesting Parties would appreciate any guidance that the Court can provide as soon as the Court's schedule permits.

	Respectfully submitted,
Dated: April 8, 2010	FARELLA BRAUN + MARTEL LLP
	By:/s/ David J. Lazerwitz
	Attorneys for Defendant-Intervenor Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Dated: April 8, 2010	HOLLAND & HART LLP
	By: (with permission) Nancy S. Bryson
	Attorneys for Defendant-Intervenor Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Dated: April 8, 2010	STINSON MORRISON HECKER LLP
	By: (with permission)
	Daniel Bukovac
	Attorneys for Defendant-Intervenor SESVanderHave USA, Inc.

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DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON LLP

By: (with permission)
Harry Zirlin

Attorneys for Defendant-Intervenor

Betaseed, Inc.

Dated: April 8, 2010

EARTHJUSTICE

(with permission)
Paul H. Achitoff

Attorneys for Plaintiff Center for Food Safety

Phone conference approved. IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 9, 2010

