

**Subject:** Christoph Then  
**From:** "Friedman, Robert" <rfriedman@jcvi.org>  
**Date:** 7/31/2017 7:56 PM  
**To:** Fred Gould <fgould@ncsu.edu>

Hi Fred—

Glad you were able to respond as quickly as you did! If you do not know Christoph, he is among the worst of his ilk. Much nastier than, for example, Jim Thomas, but nowhere near as clever.

If you have not come across his organization: <https://www.testbiotech.org/gentechnik-grenzen>

Regards,  
Bob

Robert M. Friedman  
Vice President for Policy and University Relations  
J. Craig Venter Institute  
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**From:** bch@cbd.int [mailto:bch@cbd.int]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 30, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** Friedman, Robert <rfriedman@jcvi.org>  
**Subject:** Synbio Forum Topic 2: Further analysis of evidence of benefits and adverse effects of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology - A new message has been posted to the forum

Dear Mr. Robert Friedman,

The following message has been posted by **Mr. Fred Gould, North Carolina State University** on **2017-07-30 15:41**.

**[RE: Midpoint of our discussion Christoph Then](#)** [#8705]

I thank Christoph Then for bringing up a PLoS article by Krinsky & Schwab (2017) that criticized the US National Academies report, "Genetically Engineered Crops: Experiences and Prospects" as being unreliable because of committee member conflicts of interest. This post by Christoph reminds me that it is important to provide more detail on criticism of the report from those who are advocates for less regulation of engineered crops as well as those who feel that the US National Academies reports are biased by alliances with corporations.

As chair of the National Academies' committee on GE Crops, I would like to bring to your attention a set of published papers about this issue (attached). Most importantly, a commentary on the report titled "National Academies report has broad support" that was authored by leaders from 15 diverse academic societies.

Also, please read the following two articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

<http://www.chronicle.com/article/Under-Fire-National-Academies/239885>

<http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/letters/national-academies-report-on-genetically-engineered-crops-guarded-against-bias/>

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