



Gillibrand Representatives Visit and Tour BioWorks, Inc.

Victor, New York (March 15, 2012) – Representatives from U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s office visited and toured BioWorks, Inc., a leading company in the biopesticide industry. Sarah Clark, Deputy State Director, and Mariana Pugliese, Rochester/Finger Lakes Regional Assistant, met with Bill Foster, President and Chief Executive Officer of BioWorks and other BioWorks employees on Wednesday, to learn more about the New York-based company.

Foster, also a board member of the Biopesticide Industry Alliance, gave a brief overview of BioWorks’ history in manufacturing and marketing biopesticides to the professional horticulture industry, and the advantages of their expanded use to commercial greenhouse growers, farmers, their workers, and the environment. “Biopesticides make up 3-5% of the global pesticide industry, and the biopesticide segment is growing approximately 15% per year,” according to Foster.

Biopesticides, which are pest management tools derived from natural materials such as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals, have a 63-year history of use, and there are currently more than 200 registered biopesticides active ingredients and 780 products in the United States, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s website (www.epa.gov).

“Biopesticides are advantageous to growers because they work in tandem to conventional pesticides, are usually inherently less toxic than conventional forms of pest control, generally affect only the target pest and closely related organisms and are effective in very small quantities”, stated Foster. “This saves growers money and protects their workers, consumers, and the environment.”

Foster also shared some of the recent challenges faced in the process of getting new biopesticides registered with the EPA. “The registration process for new products takes anywhere from 16 to 24 months – significantly more than they used to,” commented Foster. “This hinders the available options to growers who are actively seeking alternatives to synthetic chemicals on their crops.”

BioWorks has been an active member of the Ontario County community for almost 20 years. Currently they have 30 employees, 24 of whom are located in New York. Their products are sold in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and many other countries around the world.

About BioWorks

BioWorks, Inc., a privately held company, provides environmentally responsible, safe and cost-effective solutions to the horticulture industry. BioWorks is a founding member of the Biopesticide Industry Alliance and also a proud sponsor of the AFE scholarship program, funding the 'BioWorks IPM/Sustainable Practices Scholarship'. For more information, please visit www.bioworksinc.com.

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