

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

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September 26, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Kingston, Ranking Member Dicks and Ranking Member Farr:

The AFRI Coalition, comprised of organizations representing research institutions, scientific societies, and other agricultural stakeholders, writes to urge the House to recede to the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed funding level of \$265.9 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in fiscal year 2012. AFRI is the nation's premier competitive agricultural research grants program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The Coalition recognizes that lawmakers face many difficult decisions and competing priorities in this austere budget environment. At the same time, we believe that continued investments in agricultural research will help spur the U.S. economy.

The Coalition exhorts lawmakers to make sustainable increases in funding for AFRI as the U.S. economy recovers. Investments in agricultural research funded through AFRI bolster work performed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service, land grant universities and colleges, other academic institutions, and the private sector, thus magnifying the impact. For every \$1 invested in publicly funded agricultural research, \$20 in economic activity is generated.

As the Congress examines fiscal year 2012 spending priorities, we look forward to working with you in support of AFRI. If you would like to learn more about AFRI or specific funding in each state, please contact us at sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org.

Sincerely,
American Society of Animal Science
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Nutrition
American Phytopathological Society
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Institute of Food Technologists
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Poultry Science Association