

March 8, 2011

RE: Support for Funding for USDA Research Mission in FY11 Long Term CR

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The undersigned urge you to support funding for the USDA's Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area at the levels set forth in the amendment released by the Senate Appropriations Committee in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1. This includes funding of \$2.4 billion combined for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), with \$280 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). This is a responsible level of commitment that is sensitive to current budgetary challenges.

H.R. 1 as passed by the House would cut \$415 million from the REE mission area, compressed into the last half of FY11, contributing to an already serious and unsustainable research deficit and threatening to disrupt important ongoing research and restrict or eliminate the ability to invest in new research to address multiple emerging challenges.

Foundational investment in federal agricultural research is leveraged by producer investments through their research and promotion programs, private investments and state resources. Investment reductions of the magnitude suggested in H.R. 1 as passed by the House would represent a severe setback to these public-private leveraging efforts,

The USDA research mission represents the nation's signature federal investment in the future of the food and agricultural sector. Solutions to today's and tomorrow's challenges of profitability, productivity, nutrition, biofuels, sustainability and other pressing needs rely heavily on adequate Federal investments in agricultural, food, and natural resource research and development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS

Alcorn State University, School of Agriculture, Research, Extension and Applied Sciences

American Association of Avian Pathologists

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Nursery and Landscape Association

American Phytopathological Society

American Dairy Science Association

American Sheep Industry Association

American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS)

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutrition

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Feed Industry Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS)
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U)
Biotechnology Industry Organization
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Wheat Commission
College of Agricultural and Life Science and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station,
University of Idaho
College of Agriculture and Life Science, University of Arizona
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno
College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, University of Missouri
College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University
College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Danforth Plant Science Center
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Institute of Food Technologists
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Michigan State University
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
National Association of Plant Breeders
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Renderers Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
North Carolina State University
North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS)
Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS)
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Poultry Science Association
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS)
University of California
University of Guam
University of Illinois
University of Minnesota Extension

University of Missouri
Texas AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Tech University
The Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada
UT Institute of Agriculture
Washington Grain Alliance
Washington State University
Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)
Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS)

INDIVIDUALS

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Daniel M. Dooley, University of California
Dr. Susan Fritz, Interim Dean and Director, Agricultural Research Division, University of
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Dr. R. Michael Roberts, Curators' Professor of Animal Sciences, University of Missouri-
Columbia
David M. Stelly, College Station, Texas
Dr. Donald C. Thill, Director, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural
and Life Sciences, University of Idaho
Dr. Lee Van Wychen, National and Regional Weed Science Societies