

February 1, 2010

Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Federal Relations Office
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2124

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the producer members and staff of each of our organizations, we are writing in support of continued funding for the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University. Our members greatly appreciate the objective policy analyses provided by the AFPC at Texas A&M. The Center's analyses of farm policy, and now renewable energy and climate change policy, have provided much needed unbiased information on a timely basis. Their annual Baseline analysis of representative crop farms, dairies, and cattle ranches provides valuable information to policymakers, producers and agribusinesses that is not available elsewhere.

The AFPC policy research is funded by three special appropriation projects each with a University partner:

Regionalized Implications of Farm Programs – FAPRI, University of Missouri,
Livestock and Dairy Policy Analysis – Cornell University, and
Natural Fibers – Cotton Research – Texas Tech University.

Our membership benefits from the AFPC's unbiased analyses of current and potential policy issues affecting U.S. agriculture. Their work in 2009 has provided invaluable insight into the most important policy issues affecting our members that continued a long history of performance. Their recent research has included renewable fuels, climate change, dairy labor, and animal disease impacts, in addition to the more traditional commodity policy.

We strongly support continued funding of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center for its representative farm policy analyses.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Sorghum Producers
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
US Rice Producers Association
USA Rice Federation
Western Peanut Growers Association