

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro:

We urge you to support the \$295 million Senate-passed funding level for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) during conference of the FY2010 agriculture appropriation bills. The undersigned organizations, representing research institutions, scientists, and other agricultural stakeholders, are united in our support of the nation's competitive, agricultural research enterprise, which contributes to U.S. economic health and the well-being of all Americans.

As the nation and world seek innovative solutions for climate change, sustainable food and fuel production, and ecosystem health, we must renew public investment in food and agricultural research conducted at research institutions across the nation. Basic and applied research in agriculture establishes the scientific foundation required to provide a safe, nutritious food supply in a manner that reduces environmental pollution, promotes sustainable yields, improves human health, and promotes the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace. The creation of AFRI by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 presents a unique opportunity to enhance the quality and magnitude of the United States' agricultural research portfolio.

The agricultural research community strongly endorses the \$295 million included in the Senate appropriations bill. As you enter conference, we respectfully request you support a stronger and more sustainable American food and agricultural system through maximum funding of AFRI. Thank you for your consideration and your support of this critical area of science.

Sincerely,

A • P • L • U (Association of Public and Land-grant Universities)
American Dietetic Association
American Society of Animal Science
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Plant Biology
American Veterinary Medical Association
Cornell University
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

Environmental Mutagen Society
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Institute of Food Technologists
International Society for Computational Biology
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Michigan State University
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research
New Mexico State University
North American Millers Association
North Carolina State University
Novus International, Inc.
The Ohio State University
Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University
Poultry Science Association
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Society for Developmental Biology
Society for the Study of Reproduction
South Dakota State University
University of Arizona
University of California System
University of California, Davis
University of California, Riverside
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Missouri
University of Minnesota
University of North Carolina
University of North Carolina, Wilmington
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Washington University