



May 19, 2011

Honorable Devin Nunes
1013 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nunes:

We are pleased to support the Charitable Agricultural Research Act which would enable the creation of Agricultural Research Organizations (ARO's) to provide the opportunity for new private funding for agricultural research.

America's wheat farmers are acutely aware that by 2050, agricultural production must double in order to feed the global population. Agricultural research is the key to solving this challenge and allowing for continued production of a safe and affordable food supply.

More than 70 percent of the wheat varieties grown in the U.S. come from the public research system. Unfortunately, federal funding for agricultural research has been stagnant for decades. Although agricultural research plays a vital role in allowing Americans to spend less than 10 percent of their household income on food, funding for agricultural research has never grown beyond a tiny slice of the federal research investment pie. Wheat farmers are concerned that this lack of investment will have a lasting impact on their ability to produce an ample crop and compete in the global marketplace.

There is clearly a need to increase sources of agricultural research funding outside of federal, state, and corporate research and development budgets. The Charitable Agricultural Research Act will provide a much needed change in the tax code to allow for the establishment of ARO's that will complement existing public and private research and benefit agriculture worldwide.

Thank you for your leadership in this area. We look forward to seeing this bill enacted.

Sincerely,

Dana Peterson
Chief Executive Officer