

September 10, 2009

Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member

RE: FY2010 USDA Research Appropriations

Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Brownback:

The undersigned organizations, which represent the small grains (barley, wheat, and oats) industries, appreciate the efforts of the Subcommittee and the Senate to provide support for agricultural research of importance to these crops in the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. Small grains production and the manufacture and sale of their value-added products have a significant impact on the US economy, supporting millions of jobs and generating billions of dollars in business activity and tax revenue for the US, state, and local governments. The economic and tax revenue payback from this federal investment in small grains research exceeds by many orders of magnitude the expenditures.

We are writing to request the support of the Subcommittee to sustain in conference the following items of importance to small grains.

USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Salaries & Expenses

MAINTAIN CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED PROJECTS: The Administration proposed budget for FY10 eliminated **\$290,000 in funding for cereal disease research at the USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul, MN** and **\$508,000 in funding for Karnal bunt disease research at the USDA-ARS Grain Marketing Production Research Center, Manhattan, KS** that was previously appropriated via Congressional directive, with redirection of the funding to the Administration initiative to address world hunger by avoiding catastrophic losses from new and emerging cereal diseases. We appreciate that both the Senate and House bills would maintain this funding (although in different ways) and we ask that the Conference bill provide funds for this research by adequately funding the Administration proposed world hunger/new and emerging cereal diseases initiative. This will help ensure that these projects are not proposed for elimination by the Administration in future fiscal years by incorporating them into ongoing ARS base funding.

\$2 MILION INCREASE FOR Ug99 RUST RESEARCH Maintenance of the St. Paul and Manhattan funding will continue ongoing research efforts to address critical threats to US and world small grains posed by diseases such as the rapidly spreading Ug99 stem rust. However, increased funding is needed to address the Ug99 stem rust threat. Therefore, **we request that the increase of \$2 million contained in the Senate bill for**

Ug99 stem rust research be included in the final conference bill as a line item separate from the Administration world hunger/new and emerging cereal diseases initiative.

Both the Senate and House bill provide **increased funding for human nutrition research to address obesity, a national health issue.** We request that the \$8.513 in the Senate bill be sustained in Conference.

USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Buildings & Facilities

Agricultural Research Center, Pullman, WA – We appreciate the funding installment provided in both bills for this important research facility and request that the \$3.74 million in the Senate bill be sustained in Conference.

Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center, Fargo, ND – We appreciate the language in the Senate bill that directs ARS to provide an updated report on the feasibility, requirements, and scope of facility needs at this location and request that this language be retained in Conference.

USDA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
Special Research Grants

We appreciate the continued support for Congressional recognized research priorities to meet emerging and long-term national and regional challenges as provided through the Special Research Grant program which promote the vital relationships between Federal research activities and land grant institutions. We thank Congress for funding the following Special Research Grants of critical importance to small grains.

Aegilops Cylindrica (Jointed Goatgrass) - Funding is provided in the House bill at **\$245,000** and we request that amount be sustained in Conference.

Barley for Rural Development – Funding is provided in both bills and we request that the **\$547,000** in the Senate bill be sustained in Conference.

Expanded Wheat Pasture - Funding is provided in the House bill at **\$223,000** and we request that amount be sustained in Conference.

Regional Barley Gene Mapping Project – Funding is provided in the House bill at **\$471,000** and we request that amount be sustained in Conference.

Russian Wheat Aphid - Funding is provided in both bills and we request that the **\$250,000** in the Senate bill be sustained in Conference.

Step IV – Water Quality in Northwest - Funding is provided in the House bill at **\$444,000** and we request that amount be sustained in Conference.

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Wheat Genetics Research – Funding is provided in the House bill at **\$240,000** and we request that amount be sustained in Conference.

We thank the Subcommittee for its consideration.

Sincerely,

American Malting Barley Association – Dr. Mike Davis, President

National Association of Wheat Growers – Daren Coppock, CEO

National Barley Growers Association - Dave Henderson, President

National Barley Improvement Committee – Dr. Mike Davis, Executive Secretary

National Oat Improvement Committee – Dr. Stephen Harrison, Chair

National Wheat Improvement Committee – Dr. Jim Peterson, Chair

North American Millers' Association – Jane DeMarchi, Director Government Relations