

June 21, 2017-via email

The Honorable John Hoeven
U.S. Senate
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley:

The undersigned organizations strongly support federal investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission in fiscal year 2018 (FY18) through intramural and extramural programs, for the following minimum amounts:

- Agricultural Research Service (ARS) \$1,170,235,000
- Economic Research Service (ERS) \$91,300,000
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) \$176,600,000
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) \$1,362,909,000
 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) \$425,000,000
 - McIntyre-Stennis (Research and Extension Programs) \$40,572,000
 - 1890 Extension (Extension Activities) \$54,500,000
 - Evans-Allen (Research and Education Programs) \$64,732,000
 - Hatch Act (Research and Education Programs) \$291,138,000
 - Smith-Lever (Extension Activities) \$358,396,000
 - Level funding for other NIFA programs, with increases where possible.

Increases to any programs in the REE mission area should constitute a net increase in REE funding, and not come at the expense of other REE programs.

Public investments in food and agricultural research, extension and education produce critical advancements and tools that help the nation's food and agricultural enterprise succeed for the ultimate benefit of sustainable farm, ranch and food businesses, consumers, rural communities, the nation's economy, and the world.

Federal funding for food and agricultural science has been essentially flat for over 20 years despite much greater demonstrated needs, and has reportedly declined by about 25 percent in real terms since 2003. The nation's competitiveness in global markets is at risk, as investments in food and agricultural science by global competitors have been growing rapidly.

Sincerely,

National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Bakers Association

American Dairy Science Association (ADSA)
American Farmland Trust
American Feed Industry Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Seed Trade Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Veterinary Medical Association
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Public and Land-Grant Colleges and Universities
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Brewers Association
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Dept. of Agricultural & Consumer Economics, University of Illinois
Division of Applied Social Sciences, University of Missouri
Entomological Society of America
Eversole Associates
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy
Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)
FASS
Food Distribution Research Society
Global Harvest Initiative
Gro-Intelligence
Illinois Farm Bureau
Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)
International Alliance for Phytobiomes Research
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multi-state Initiative
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Corn Growers Association
National Pork Producers Council
North American Millers' Association
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Pollinator Partnership
Purdue University College of Agriculture
Resource Economics & Management, West Virginia University
Restaurant Services, Inc
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Rural Sociological Society
Society for Range Management
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Weed Science Society
Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Univ. of Delaware College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
USDUSDFRC Research and Industry committee
Weed Science Society of America
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
Western Society of Weed Science