

August 22, 2001

The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chairman
ATTENTION: Mr. Galen Fountain
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development
& Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

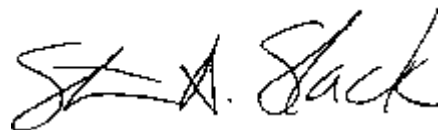
On behalf of the 5,000 members of the American Phytopathological Society, I commend your leadership in ensuring that the Senate Committee on Appropriations included \$137 million for the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRI) in S. 1191, its version of the FY 2002 agricultural appropriations bill. As the full Senate considers the bill, we strongly urge you to oppose all efforts to reduce the Committee-approved funding level for the NRI.

The NRI has been the primary source of federal funds awarded competitively for research on plant diseases and their management since its formation as the flagship competitive grants program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1991. This program is particularly valuable and unique with the USDA because of its focus on more fundamental understanding of plant diseases so critical to the opening of new directions in applied research for plant disease management.

The NRI has been critical to advancements in research on plant diseases and their management and this helps to ensure a healthy environment and food supply. NRI-sponsored plant research contributes to higher yields, safer foods, and more efficient crop production. In addition to the many scientific breakthroughs made possible by the NRI, this competitive research program helps to maintain and increase the talent pool of scientists working in agricultural research.

Thank you, again, for your strong record of support for agriculture and for agricultural research.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Slack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Attention: Ms. Rebecca Davies
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development
& Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Senator Cochran:

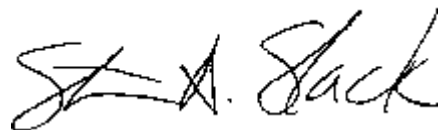
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

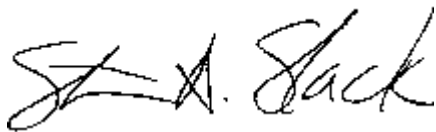
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Byron Dorgan
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

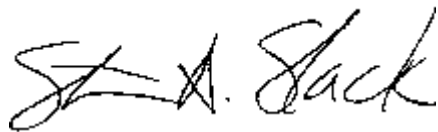
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

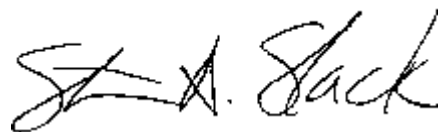
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Richard Durbin
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

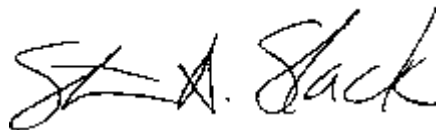
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Tim Johnson
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

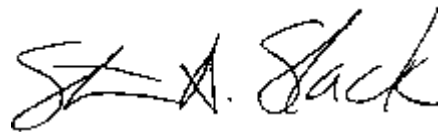
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

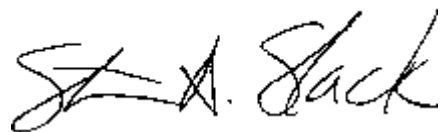
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

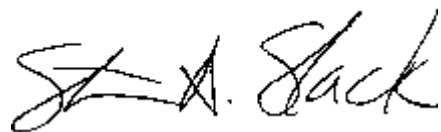
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Christopher Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

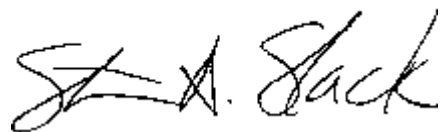
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Steve Slack, President
American Phytopathological Society

August 22, 2001

Senator Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

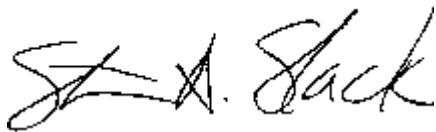
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Steve Slack, President
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Senator Conrad Burns
United States Senate
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burns:

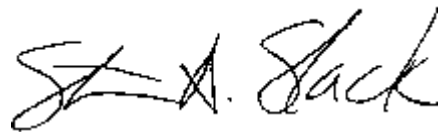
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August 22, 2001

Senator Larry Craig
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Craig:

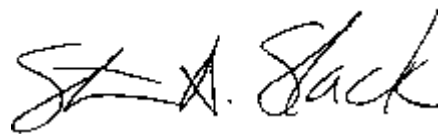
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