

# Memorandum

FROM: D.C. Coston, Chair, Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)  
TO: APLU Component Organizations Represented on CLP  
SUBJ: Process and Timeline for 2012 Farm Bill Recommendations  
*Note: First Response Needed by July 15, 2010*  
DATE: April 28, 2010

The Policy Board of Directors (PBD) of the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) has reconstituted the BAA's former Farm Bill Committee and renamed it the Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP). The CLP recently approved a process and timeline for development of the land-grant system's recommendations for the 2012 Farm Bill. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide your organization with a clear outline of the process and timing of the CLP's deliberations and the means whereby you should communicate your organization's proposed recommendations to the CLP.

## A. Process and Timeline

**1. Canvass Your Membership.** As in prior Farm Bill rounds, each organization should identify their individual Farm Bill priorities as well as programs/priorities that affect the entire land-grant system. Each organization should consider the following questions:

- Which National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) programs should be reauthorized?
- Which programs (if any) should be combined?
- Which programs (if any) should be eliminated?
- For programs to be reauthorized, should the existing authorized funding level be increased?
- For programs to be reauthorized, is it desirable to change the authorization language? If such changes are necessary, what are the specific changes that you seek and why?
- Given the success in securing mandatory (not subject to annual appropriations) funding in the 2008 Farm Bill, are there other new/innovative competitive grant opportunities that should be pursued for mandatory funding?\*
- Do the current mandatory programs need to be reauthorized as currently constructed or do they need modification? What funding levels should be pursued?\*
- Are the NIFA and broader USDA research, education, and extension structure and organization working as intended? Are legislative enhancements/modifications required?

**\*Important Note:** The \$129M in mandatory funding expires in FY 2012. The total CBO baseline for Biomass Research & Development, Beginning Farmer & Rancher, Specialty Crop Research, and Organic Research & Extension Activities is \$0 for FY2013 and beyond. Therefore, unless additional mandatory spending authority is provided (which is very unlikely given the current budget situation) any mandatory funding provided for these existing programs (or others that may be included) will need to be offset by Congress from reductions in other mandatory spending accounts. Congressional funding decisions such as these will be extremely difficult.

**Action Required:** Please develop and implement a broadly-inclusive process to ensure that your organization has addressed these questions and any others that you believe important. (Please use the attached form.)

**Deadline:** Please complete your organization's review and forward your written recommendations to your CLP representative for transmittal to me, Eric Young, APLU, and Cornerstone by **July 15, 2010**.

**2. CLP Compilation of Initial Recommendations and Round Two Review.** The recommendations received from all CLP component organizations will be compiled, reviewed, and organized by APLU staff and Cornerstone. No later than July 26, 2010, the compilation of recommendations will be returned to your organization for further review and comment and discussed during a CLP conference call on that date. (The purpose of this second review is to make certain that all CLP component organizations are fully aware of what every other organization is proposing.)

**Action Required:** When you have received the compilation please broadly circulate it within your organization and, once again, develop a response that is representative of your membership.

**Deadline:** Written comments on the compilation must be sent through your CLP representative to me, APLU staff, and Cornerstone by **September 30, 2010**.

**3. CLP Produces Unified 2012 Farm Bill Recommendations.** The CLP will meet on November 15, 2010, during the APLU annual meeting in Dallas, Texas. At that time we will review, modify, and ratify the recommendations made by the CLP's component organizations. APLU staff and Cornerstone will help us prepare for the meeting by organizing the recommendations into "controversial" and "non-controversial" lists. (If deemed necessary, the CLP chair may hold a pre-meeting conference call on October 29.)

**Action Required:** Please send your CLP representative to the November 15 meeting fully prepared to discuss/defend your organization's recommendations and/or any issues that you might have with the recommendations made by other organizations.

**4. Legislative Drafting.** A drafting/review process similar to the one successfully employed by the CREATE-21 and BAA Farm Bill Committees in preparation for the 2008 Farm Bill will be followed. (Key dates in 2011 are set forth below.)

#### **B. Key Dates / Deadlines**

- 04-28-2010 CLP Chair issues call for 2012 Farm Bill Recommendations (this memo).
- 07-15-2010 Deadline for submission of initial recommendations.
- 07-26-2010 Compilation of recommendations released; CLP conference call.
- 09-30-2010 Deadline for submission of comments on compilation of recommendations.
- 10-29-2010 (Tentative) CLP conference call in advance of November meeting.
- 11-15-2010 CLP meets and produces unified 2012 Farm Bill recommendations.
- 01-31-2011 First draft of bill language delivered by Cornerstone to CLP members.
- 02-28-2011 Deadline for comments on initial draft.
- 03-31-2011 Second draft of bill language distributed to CLP members.

**C. Communications on Farm Bill Topics.** For efficiency, the CLP urges your organization and its membership to communicate with the CLP, APLU staff, and Cornerstone exclusively through your CLP representative as much as possible. If necessary, I will be available to answer questions while Vernie Hubert will manage the CLP process for Cornerstone Government Affairs.