

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Bonilla, Chairman  
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2362 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2003

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to urge you to include funding in the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill that is sufficient to provide sorely-needed increases in the formula funding and competitive grants for agricultural research, education and extension programs.

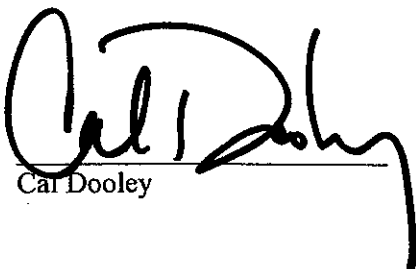
Formula funds for the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) have been declining, in real terms, for many years. In addition to the declining value of federal support, the nation's great research institutions are also threatened by the fiscal crises facing many of their home states.

In addition, the funding for agricultural research continues to lag behind the levels provided to other national research initiatives. For example, the National Research Initiative – the nation's flagship agricultural research program – is able to fund only 15 percent of priority research that has already been examined by experts and deemed of high quality by peer review panels.

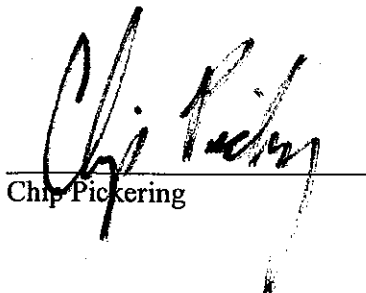
The nation faces many critical agricultural research needs, including food safety and security, health and nutrition, and the environment. To address these critical research needs we urge you to include the following initiatives in the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill:

- Increase fiscal year 2004 funding for CSREES formula grant programs by five percent over the fiscal year 2003 level. This modest increase is necessary just to sustain the existing infrastructure and maintain a constant level of effort in this critical area.
- Provide funds sufficient to fully support at least 30 percent of the competitive grant proposals submitted to CSREES.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and are grateful for your commitment to agriculture research.

  
Carl Dooley

Sincerely,

  
Chip Pickering

Rick Larsen  
Rick Larsen

Charles Stenholm  
Charles Stenholm

Julia Carson  
Julia Carson

John Duncan  
John Duncan

Ron Kind  
Ron Kind

Mark Kennedy  
Mark Kennedy

Bob Etheridge  
Bob Etheridge

Sam Graves  
Sam Graves

William L. Jenkins  
William L. Jenkins

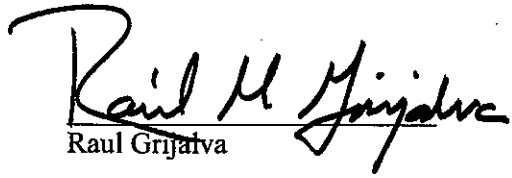
Jerry Moran  
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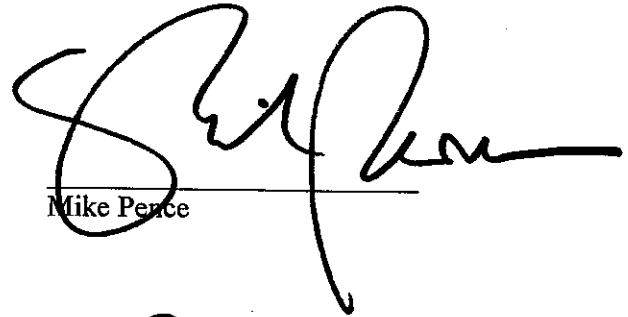
Earl Pomeroy  
Earl Pomeroy

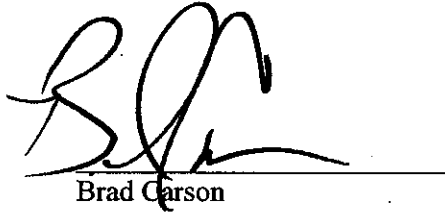
Timothy Johnson  
Timothy Johnson

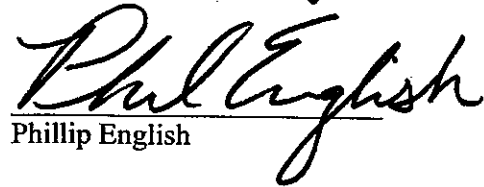
Betty McCollum  
Betty McCollum

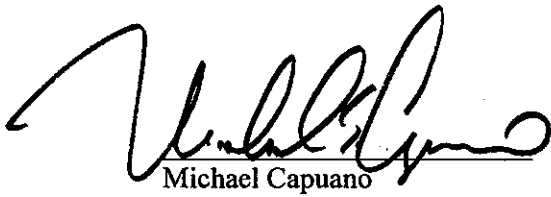
John Boehner  
John Boehner

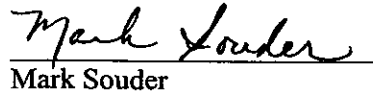
  
Raul Grijalva

  
Mike Pence

  
Brad Carson

  
Phillip English

  
Michael Capuano

  
Mark Souder

  
Lincoln Davis

  
Marsha Blackburn

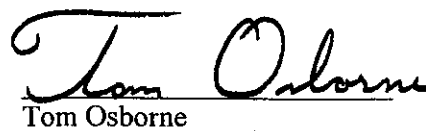
  
James P. McGovern

  
Fred Upton

  
John Spratt

  
Tom Allen

  
Max Sandfin

  
Tom Osborne

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Neil Abercrombie  
Neil Abercrombie

Tammy Baldwin  
Tammy Baldwin

Jerry Weller  
Jerry Weller

Ken Lucas  
Ken Lucas

Mark Green  
Mark Green

Brad Miller  
Brad Miller

Johnny Isakson  
Johnny Isakson

Earl Blumenauer  
Earl Blumenauer

Max Burns  
Max Burns

Dale Kildee  
Dale Kildee

Paul Inslee  
Paul Inslee

John Shimkus  
John Shimkus

Lee Terry  
Lee Terry

Rodney Alexander  
Rodney Alexander

Jim McDermott  
Jim McDermott

Chris John  
Chris John

Gil Gutknecht  
Gil Gutknecht

Dennis Cardoza  
Dennis Cardoza

Dennis Rehberg  
Dennis Rehberg

Mike Thompson  
Mike Thompson

Rob Simmons  
Rob Simmons  
CTZ

Jim Turner  
Jim Turner

Cass Ballenger  
Cass Ballenger

Sanford Bishop  
Sanford Bishop

Mike Ross  
Mike Ross

Collin Peterson  
Collin Peterson

Tim Holden  
Tim Holden

Anibal Acevedo-Vila  
Anibal Acevedo-Vila

Richard Neal  
Richard Neal

Michael Michaud  
Michael Michaud

Mike McIntyre  
Mike McIntyre

Ike Skelton  
Ike Skelton

Ed Whitfield  
Ed Whitfield

Robin Hayes  
Robin Hayes

Dave Camp  
Dave Camp

James Oberstar  
James Oberstar

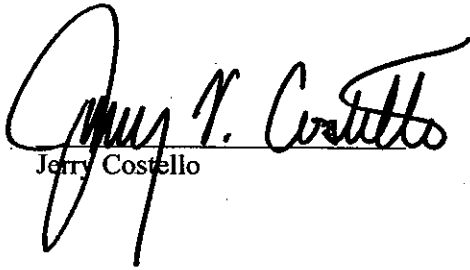
Roger Wicker  
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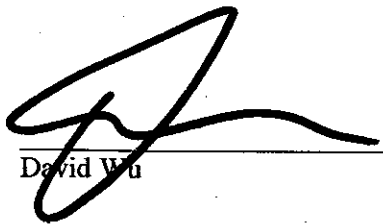
Melvin L. Watt  
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Jim Marshall  
Jim Marshall

William Delahunt  
William Delahunt

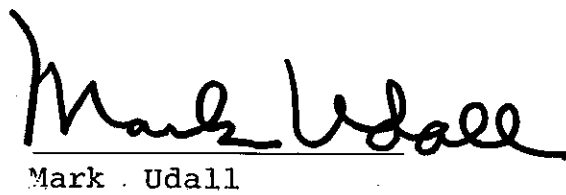
Doc Hastings  
Doc Hastings

  
Jerry Costello

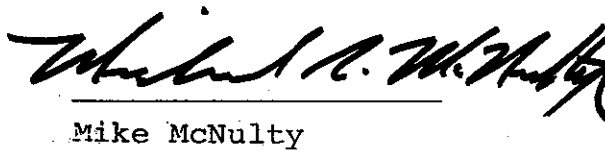
  
David Wu

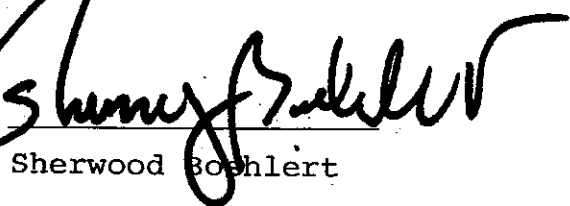
  
Bob Filner

  
David Scott

  
Mark Udall

  
William Jefferson

  
Mike McNulty

  
Sherwood Boehlert

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