

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Appropriations for
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
And Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Room 2362-A Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Appropriations for
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Room 2362-A Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

We are encouraged that the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), established in the 2008 Farm Bill, is well on its way towards providing the enhanced financial support necessary to strengthen research, extension, and higher education programs conducted at America's land-grant universities and related institutions. Thank you for recognizing the agency's essential role in addressing critical national issues through the allocation of enhanced funding provided in the FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

We are hopeful that the FY 2011 bill will build upon this support and further improve funding for the core NIFA programs that underwrite the research and extension capacity of the 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions:

- Hatch Act appropriations support food and agricultural research at the land-grant universities created under the Morrill Act of 1862.
- Smith-Lever funding supports the full range of Cooperative Extension efforts at the 1862 institutions.
- McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry funding maintains forestry and natural resources research at the 1862 land-grants and other state universities.
- Evans-Allen Act appropriations support research at historically black land-grant universities established under the Morrill Act of 1890.
- 1890s Institutions Extension maintains Cooperative Extension programs at the 1890 land-grant universities.
- Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions addresses the unique needs of Native Americans through the 1994 institutions

Federal appropriations for 1862 and 1890 programs are matched by the states on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis, with many states providing significantly more than the minimum statutory match. Given the extreme budgetary pressure that many states face in the current recession, federal funding

is more essential than ever. Because of the unique situation of 1994 Institutions, state matching is not required.

In addition to the programs listed above, we urge you to provide an increase to NIFA's flagship competitive grants program, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Given the many critical national problems that AFRI is designed to address, additional funding would be put to good use.

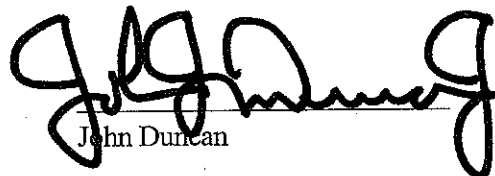
Some key priorities that need immediate attention through enhanced funding for AFRI and the six capacity programs include:

- **Bioenergy.** The United States has successfully adopted policies promoting the production of renewable fuels (such as ethanol and biodiesel) and other bioproducts to improve national energy security and reduce CO₂ emissions. There is a pressing need for additional research to decrease water use, improve soil fertility, and related environmental conditions. Additional economic analyses are also needed to better understand how food, feed, and fuel prices are interrelated.
- **Climate Change.** Enabling agricultural producers to adapt to evolving climatic conditions, which will affect farms, ranches, and forests in many ways (water availability, pest damage, severe weather variability, etc.) is critical to ensure sustainable, affordable food supplies. Research funding needs to be boosted and graduates of land-grant universities receive enhanced and updated academic and practical training to obtain the requisite skills.
- **Nutrition and Health.** Increased recognition of the effects of healthy diets in addressing the pervasive epidemics of obesity and diabetes requires expanded research to help understand the community and behavioral attributes of human nutrition. Such research will lead directly to more scientifically informed nutrition education and guidance programs delivered through the Cooperative Extension System.
- **Global Food Security.** Greater research, extension, and education funding is urgently needed to help at-risk countries develop appropriate agriculture systems. Targeted research will also have many benefits within the United States to fight plant and animal diseases that threaten public health and agricultural production.

Thank you for your consistent support for the research, extension, and teaching programs conducted at America's land-grant institutions and for your consideration of this request for FY 2011.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Herseth Sandlin


John Duncan

Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin

John A. Bocieri
John A. Bocieri

Madeleine Bordallo
Madeleine Bordallo

Leonard Boswell
Leonard Boswell

Rick Boucher
Rick Boucher

Bruce L. Braley
Bruce L. Braley

Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown

Russ Carnahan
Russ Carnahan

Christopher Carney
Christopher Carney

Emanuel Cleaver
Emanuel Cleaver

Peter DeFazio
Peter DeFazio

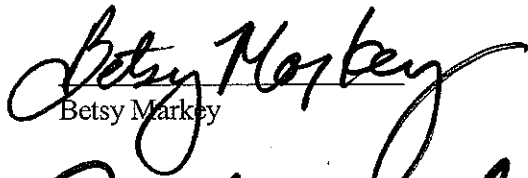
Brad Ellsworth
Brad Ellsworth

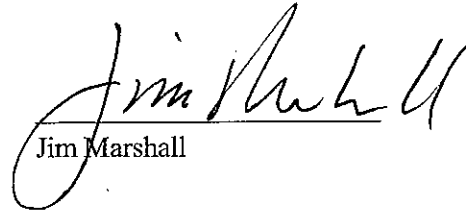
Mazie Hirono
Mazie Hirono

Dave Loebsack
Dave Loebsack

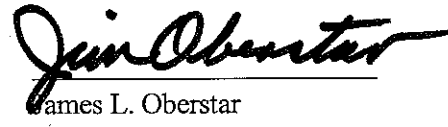
Ben R. Lujan
Ben R. Lujan

Barney Frank
Barney Frank


Betsy Markey


Jim Marshall

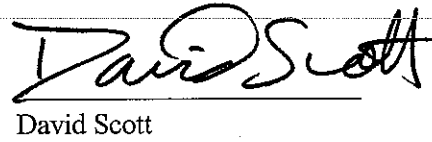

Richard E. Neal


James L. Oberstar


Solomon P. Ortiz

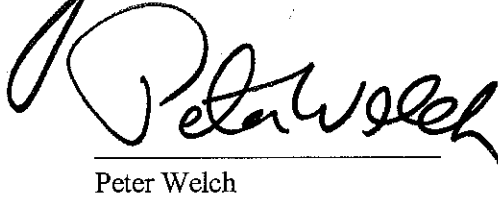

Nick Rahall

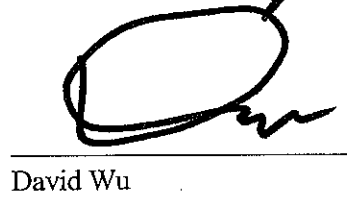

Kurt Schrader


David Scott


John Spratt


Bennie G. Thompson


Peter Welch


David Wu