

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**