

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.

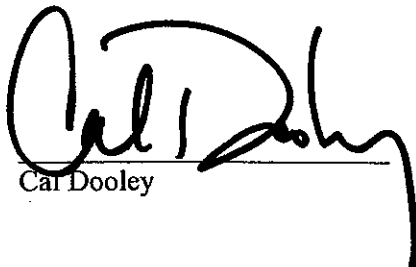
Formula funds for the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) have been declining, in real terms, for many years. In addition to the declining value of federal support, the nation's great research institutions are also threatened by the fiscal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

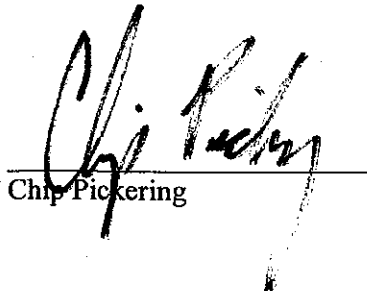
The nation faces many critical agricultural research needs, including food safety and security, health and nutrition, and the environment. To address these critical research needs we urge you to include the following initiatives in the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill:

- 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 Jr
John Duncan

Ron Kind
Ron Kind

Mark Kennedy
Mark Kennedy

Bob Etheridge
Bob Etheridge

Sam Graves
Sam Graves

William L. Jenkins
William L. Jenkins

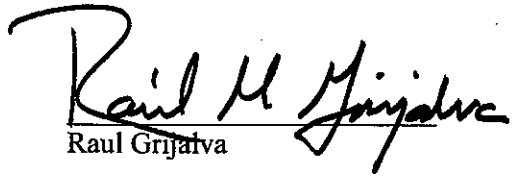
Jerry Moran
Jerry Moran

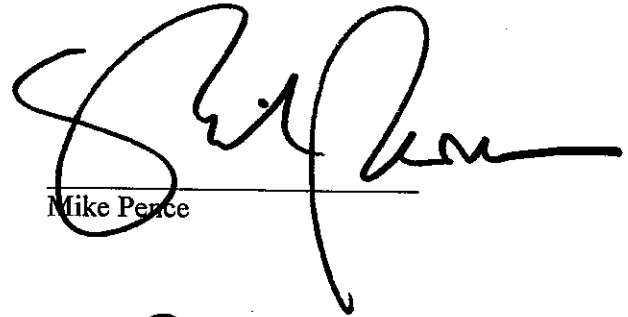
Earl Pomeroy
Earl Pomeroy

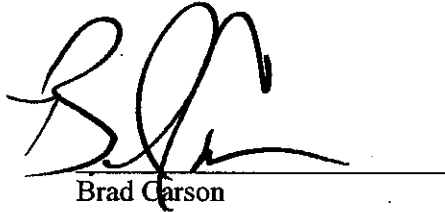
Timothy Johnson
Timothy Johnson

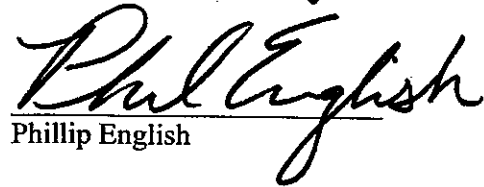
Betty McCollum
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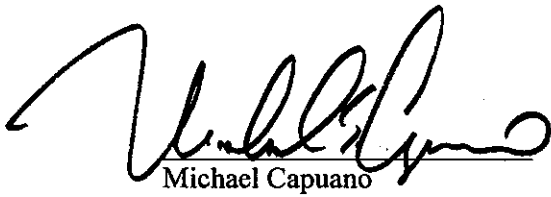
John Boehner
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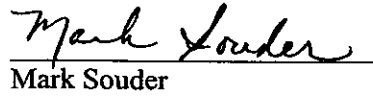

Raul Grijalva


Mike Pence


Brad Carson


Phillip English


Michael Capuano


Mark Souder


Lincoln Davis


Marsha Blackburn

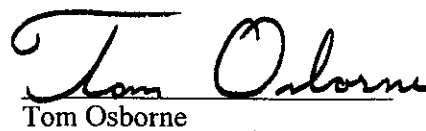

James P. McGovern


Fred Upton


John Spratt


Tom Allen


Max Sandfin


Tom Osborne

Eddie Bernice Johnson
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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

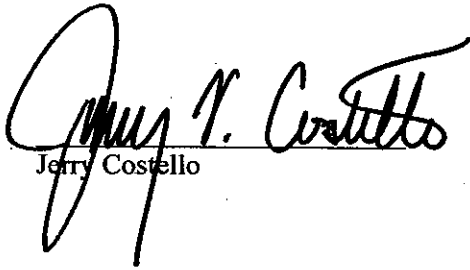
Roger Wicker
Roger Wicker

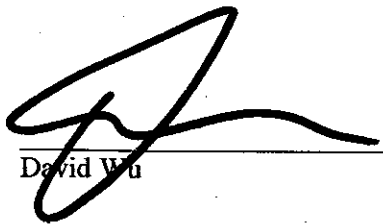
Melvin L. Watt
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Jim Marshall
Jim Marshall

William Delahunt
William Delahunt

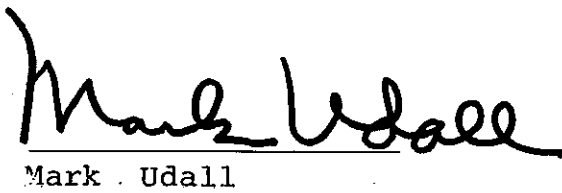
Doc Hastings
Doc Hastings


Jerry Costello

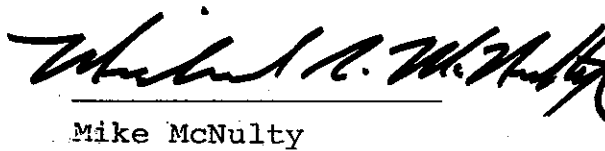

David Wu

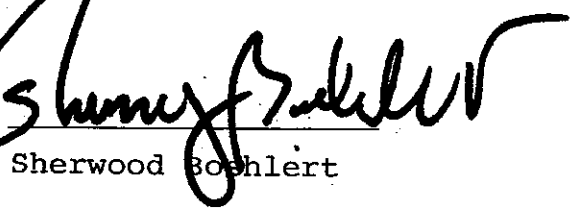

Bob Filner


David Scott


Mark Udall


William Jefferson


Mike McNulty


Sherwood Boehlert

