

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2008

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairman,  
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 Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

We write to commend you for the strong support you have demonstrated over the years for USDA research, education, and extension programs. Adequate funding for the research, higher education, and extension programs conducted at America's land-grant universities and related institutions remain a key priority for us in the Agriculture Appropriations bill. We appreciate your commitment to maintain and, where possible, grow appropriations to these public universities through the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

As you put together your FY 2009 bill, we urge you to once again focus on the major CSREES "base fund" programs that underwrite the research and extension capacity of the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions:

- Hatch Act funding supports food and agricultural research at the land-grant universities created under the First Morrill Act (1862).
- Smith-Lever appropriations sustain 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 the historically black land-grant universities established under the Second Morrill Act (1890).
- 1890s Institutions Extension, which maintains the Cooperative Extension programs at the 1890 land-grant universities.

Unfortunately, the Administration's budget request for CSREES proposes major reductions in the Hatch and McIntire-Stennis programs and burdensome requirements that more than the current 25 percent of funds distributed under these programs be used for "multistate" projects. We urge you to reject these proposed reductions and new multistate requirements. Instead, we suggest that you again strongly consider making increases to the five programs listed above.

Federal investments in America's land-grant university system — which by statute are matched at least dollar-for-dollar by the states — bear tremendous returns. Recent research conducted by economists at Iowa State and Yale showed that such investments generate a return to society of approximately 50 percent per year.

Who will benefit from increased land-grant funding?

- America's farmers and foresters... who will receive the genomic data and biotechnology tools to enhance food and fiber production/processing to feed and clothe our citizens and — through expanded international trade — others around the globe.
- Consumers... who will benefit from enhanced research and education on important issues such as food safety, nutrition, and affordable foodstuffs.
- U.S. healthcare professionals... who will gain greater insight into the relationships between diet and health in order to combat the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes.
- Clients of the Cooperative Extension System... who will obtain vital, research-based information about ways to protect the environment and safeguard our food system.
- The next generation of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists... who will receive the resources to complete their education and training.

Thank you for your consistent support of the land-grant system's research, education, and extension efforts and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mehmet K. Gökçe

Cheryl A. Walker

[Signature]

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Mike R...

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Steve Karger, M.D.

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10

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