

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2009

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 1016 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 created a new agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture — the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) — to provide enhanced support for the research, extension, and higher education programs conducted at America's land-grant universities and related institutions. NIFA is to be established by October 1, 2009, the beginning of FY 2010.

As you begin the arduous process of developing the subcommittee's FY 2010 appropriations bill, we urge you to consider providing expanded funding for the five NIFA programs that provide the capacity to carry out the research and extension programs 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.
- The research and extension programs for 1994 institutions build and strengthen the capacity at Tribal Colleges and Universities to address special needs in the tribal communities they serve.

Federal appropriations for these five capacity programs are matched by the states with at least a dollar-for-dollar basis, with many states providing much more than the minimum statutory match. Given the

extreme budgetary pressure that many states face in the current recession, the federal funding is more essential than ever.

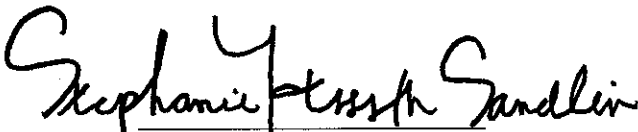
In addition to the five programs listed above, we also urge you to provide a major increase to NIFA's flagship competitive grants program, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Given the many critical national problems that AFRI is designed to address, it is important that you provide as much additional funding as possible.

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

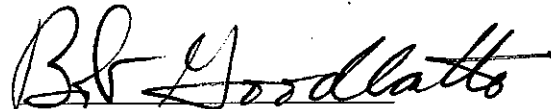
- **Crop Production:** America's farmers, ranchers, and foresters need continued research in genomic data and biotechnology tools to enhance food, fiber, and fuel production and processing as they work to meet our nation's food and domestic energy needs.
- **Climate Change.** Changes in the climate could affect farms, ranches, and forests in many ways (water availability, pest damage, severe weather variability, etc.). Research funding must be greatly expanded in this area and graduates of land-grant universities must receive enhanced and updated academic and practical training so that they obtain the requisite skills to respond to changes in the climate.
- **Human Nutrition.** As the U.S. struggles with the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes, expanded research is critically needed 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.
- **Agricultural Workforce.** There is an urgent need to educate and support more young men and women — especially from diverse backgrounds and ethnic communities — to conduct agricultural research and outreach, to serve the nation as farmers, foresters, ranchers, and bioenergy producers, and to lead public and private sector organizations in the 21st century.

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

Sincerely,



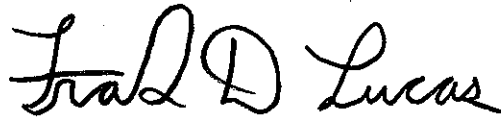
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin



Bob Goodlatte

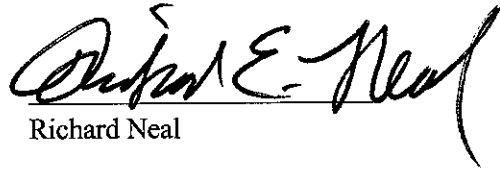


Collin Peterson



Frank Lucas


Barney Frank

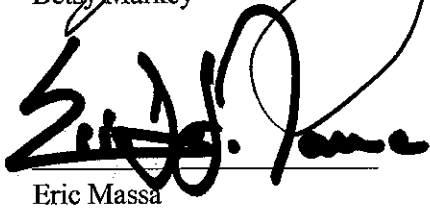

Richard Neal

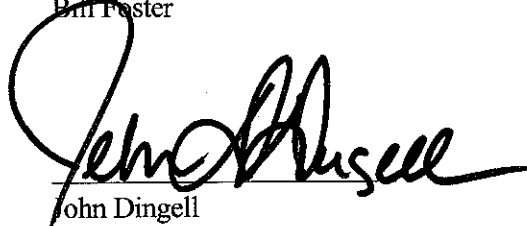

Chet Edwards

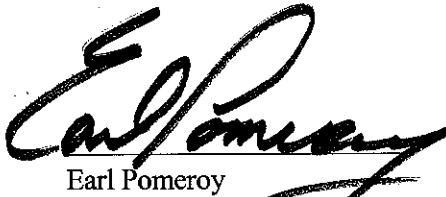

Michael Michaud

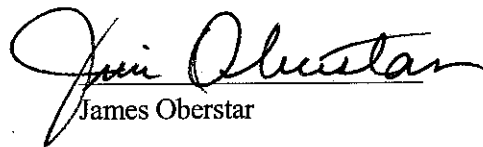

Betsy Markey

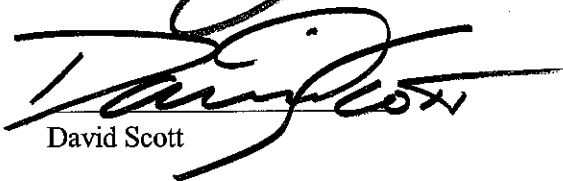

Bill Foster

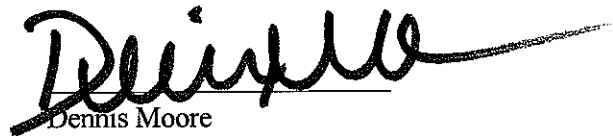

Eric Massa

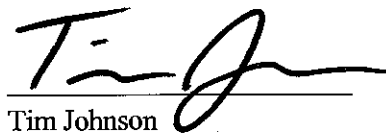

John Dingell

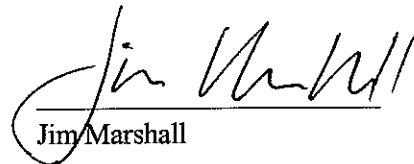

Earl Pomeroy

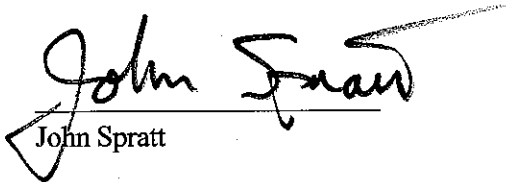

James Oberstar

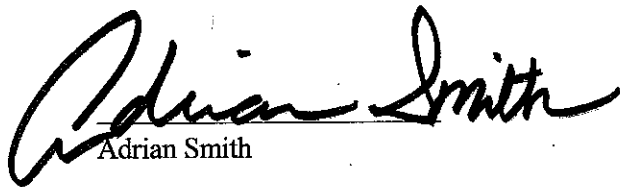

David Scott


Dennis Moore



Tim Johnson

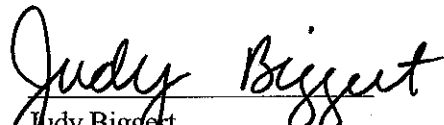

Jim Marshall



John Spratt

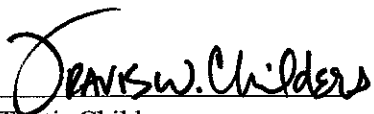

Adrian Smith


Tammy Baldwin


John Barrow


Judy Biggert

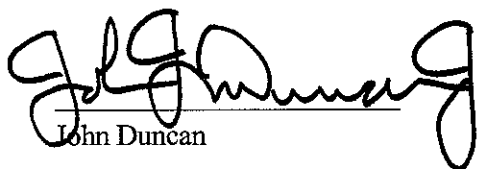

David Wu

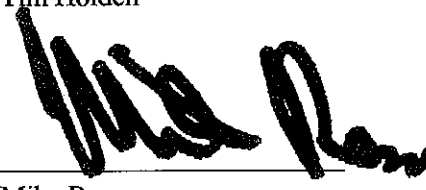

Travis Childers


Ron Kind

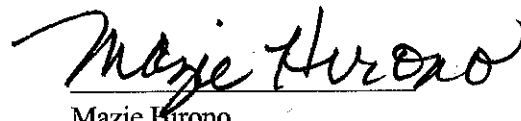

Leonard Boswell


Tim Holden

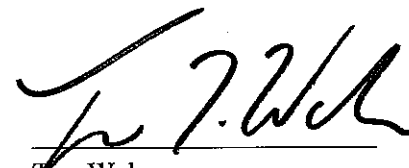

John Duncan


Mike Ross


Madeleine Bordallo


Mazie Hirono


Heath Shuler


Tim Walz


Lynn Jenkins


Dan Boren

Debbie Halvorson

Debbie Halvorson

Harry Teague

Harry Teague

Brad Miller

Brad Miller

Steve Buyer

Steve Buyer

Sam Graves

Sam Graves

Rush Holt

Rush Holt

Fred Upton

Fred Upton

John Barrow

John Barrow