

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research in 2012 Farm Bill

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012, as approved by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, includes language (Sec. 7601) to establish a Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). The undersigned organizations urge you to include a similar provision in the Research Title of the 2012 Farm Bill, to supplement the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education and Economics mission area.

A FFAR would complement and add to USDA's portfolio of intramural and extramural research programs that help solve current and future challenges facing agriculture, develop new opportunities for American agriculture, and bring innovative technology from laboratory to marketplace.

With an ever expanding global population and increasing demands for food and other agricultural products, increased investments in food and agricultural research are essential to maintaining our nation's food, economic and national security. USDA-sponsored research is vital to achieving the agricultural production levels necessary to feed the expected worldwide population by 2050 of 9 billion people and to remain competitive in a global economy. Despite the importance of such research, current funding for food and agricultural research is less than 2.5 percent of USDA's budget.

While we continue to support greater federal investment in food and agricultural research, we understand current budgetary constraints. We recognize the need for innovative solutions to increase funding and to leverage current and future investments in research. Establishing a FFAR will generate new sources of funding for food and agricultural research. It will provide a structure for new public/private partnerships and investments that will further USDA's research mission. A FFAR can help provide funding for new concepts and ideas, research to address knowledge gaps, translational research, and emerging research needs.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on food and agricultural research.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

American Dairy Science Association (ADSA)
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Horse Council
American Pistachio Growers
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Soybean Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Citrus Mutual
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association (DCVMA)
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
Entomological Society of America
Experiment Station Committee on Policy
Fats and Proteins Research Foundation
Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS)
Institute of Food Technologists
Iowa State University
Johne's Disease Integrated Program (JDIP)
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Monsanto
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Agricultural Biotechnology Council
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of Plant Breeders
National Association of Wheat Growers

National Barley Growers Association
National Chicken Council
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Renderers Association
North American Millers' Association
Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Poultry Science Association
Riley Memorial Foundation
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Science Society of America
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)
U.S. Canola Association
United States Animal Health Association
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Minnesota Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension Cooperative Extension
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
Wyoming Ag-Business Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association

CC: Members, Committee on Agriculture