

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

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September 14, 2009

The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Sam Brownback, Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

RE: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Appropriations for FY-2010

Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Brownback,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing research institutions, scientists, and other agriculture stakeholders, we want to express deep appreciation for the \$295 million funding level for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) included in the Senate FY 2010 agriculture appropriations bill. This strong funding level is a critical step forward in supporting the nation's competitive agricultural and food research enterprise to ensure the United States' economic vitality and well-being of all Americans. We urge you to continue your strong support of AFRI as the bill goes to conference.

Greater investment in basic and applied agricultural research, education, extension, and integrated projects is essential to meeting the demand for a safer and more nutritious food supply. Moreover, with the nation and world seeking innovative solutions for climate change, sustainable food and fuel production, and ecosystem health, now is the time to renew public investment in agricultural research. The creation of AFRI by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 presents a major opportunity, along with other competitive programs, to magnify and enhance the breadth of our nation's agricultural research, education and extension portfolio. The new priorities added by Congress under AFRI, including rural entrepreneurship, conventional (classical) plant and animal breeding, and domestic marketing strategies, including local and regional food systems, merit additional funding in order to maintain the high-quality, competitive research in all areas vital to U.S. agriculture.

Through the AFRI Coalition, the agricultural research community is united in our endorsement of the \$295 million included in the Senate FY 2010 appropriations bill. As

you enter conference, we respectfully request that you continue to support a stronger and more sustainable American food and agricultural system through maximum funding of AFRI.

We look forward to working with you to maintain the Senate level as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

American Dairy Science Association  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Crop Science Society of America  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Institute of Food Technologists  
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Organic Coalition  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Poultry Science Association  
Society of Nematologists  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Weed Science Society  
The Rodale Institute  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Society of Weed Science