

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Roberts:

We applaud your leadership efforts to establish a Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) in order to support research and education in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education and Economics mission area.

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 the current budgetary constraints. We recognize the need for innovative solutions to increase funding and to leverage current and future investments in research. Establishing the 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.

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.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to make a FFAR a reality.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Agricultural Retailers Association
Alcorn State University, School of Agriculture, Research, Extension and Applied Sciences
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Horse Council
American Malting Barley Association, Inc.
American Seed Trade Assoc.
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Scientists
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Soybean Association
American Statistical Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Health Institute
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Wheat Commission
Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
Dow AgroSciences LLC
Entomological Society of America
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Gowan Group
Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
Iowa State University
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Irrigation Association
Johne's Disease Integrated Program (JDIP)
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas State University
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, Inc.
Michigan State University
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers

Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Monsanto
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Agricultural Biotechnology Council
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Turfgrass Federation, Inc.
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association
North American Millers' Association
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance
Northeast Pasture Consortium
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
Poultry Science Association
Society for Range Management
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota Wheat Inc.
Southern Crop Production Association
Specialty Crops/Horticulture
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
United Dairymen of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of Minnesota Extension
USA Rice Federation
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Virginia Grain Producers Association
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Washington Grain Commission
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
Wyoming Ag-Business Association
Wyoming Crop Improvement Association

Wyoming Livestock Board
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission

CC: Members, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry