

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bishop, Chairwoman Baldwin, Ranking Member Harris and Ranking Member Hoeven:

The undersigned organizations and institutions would first thank you for your collective efforts to complete FY 2022 appropriations. As the House and Senate begin their work to develop a final FY 2022 spending package, we encourage the subcommittee members to support increased investments to advance agricultural research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Federal investments in the broad suite of research, education, and extension programs within USDA is critical to ensuring agricultural resilience, nutrition security, and food systems sustainability. We urge you to make the following investments within the FY 2022 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

- Provide **\$1.657 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Research (NIFA)** as recommended in the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill. As USDA's extramural funding arm, NIFA programs integrate research, education, and Extension to ensure that groundbreaking scientific discoveries are brought out of the laboratory and into the hands of those who can put them to work. NIFA's capacity programs, including Hatch Act, Smith-Lever, McIntire-Stennis, Evans Allen, 1890 institutions, and 1994 institutions provide an innovation network that supports our nation's experiment stations and extension activities that help keep the United States as the global leader of agricultural research.
- Within NIFA, provide **\$450 million in funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** as recommended in the House Agriculture Appropriations bill. AFRI is the premier competitive research program within USDA, supporting fundamental and applied research to address challenges in public health, food production, national security, and global competitiveness. At its current funding level, AFRI can support fewer than a third of the projects recommended for funding.
- Provide **\$1.764 billion for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS)** as recommended in the House Agriculture Appropriations bill. As USDA's intramural research network, ARS has a decades-long track record of providing science-based solutions to agricultural challenges. ARS

also plays a critical role in partnering with the university systems and industry to advance science and address emerging issues.

- Provide **\$2 million in funding for the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA)** as recommended in the House Agriculture Appropriations bill. AgARDA represents an unprecedented opportunity to support transformational, high-risk, high-reward agricultural research and development within USDA. This initial investment in AgARDA is critical to establish the program and build momentum for its success.

The American food and agricultural enterprise is facing unprecedented challenges, from increasingly volatile weather patterns due to climate change, to threats from plant pests and animal diseases, to adverse health outcomes related to nutrition insecurity. The investments in USDA research, education, and extension programs made today will be responsible for developing the scientific outcomes and workforce urgently needed to meet identified and as-yet unknown challenges in the future. We urge you to do all you can to support a robust, diverse research, education, and extension portfolio within USDA.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AFRI Coalition  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Soybean Association  
APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Association of American Universities  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)  
Colorado State University  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Crop Science Society of America  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy  
Farm Journal Foundation  
FASS  
Michigan State University AgBioResearch  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals – Multistate Initiative  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Grange  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Plant Based Products Council  
SoAR Foundation  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Syngenta  
The Breakthrough Institute  
The Nature Conservancy  
UF/IFAS  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Western Society of Weed Science