

May 3, 2021

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

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, &  
Forestry U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Scott  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Scott, and Ranking Member Thompson,

Thank you for your support for agricultural research, education, Extension, and innovation. As you consider new initiatives to support rural America and investments in the agricultural economy, we strongly urge you to include a federal agricultural research infrastructure investment of \$11.5 billion over a period of five years at U.S. colleges of agriculture. Such an investment is necessary to advance the critical work being done at institutions across the country to support American jobs, recruit a diversity of talent for the agricultural science pipeline, address our climate challenges, and ensure ongoing U.S. leadership in food and agricultural innovation.

Modern agricultural research and education facilities serve as the backbone of the nation's cutting-edge research and applied science solutions. A report recently assessed the state of facilities at U.S. colleges and schools of agriculture, reporting that 69 percent of these buildings are at the end of their useful life. The report estimated the cost to upgrade deferred maintenance for these buildings now as \$11.5 billion, and the cost to replace the dilapidated facilities as \$38.1 billion. It further stated that strategic federal investment in these facilities at 1862, 1890, 1994, and insular land-grant and non-land-grant schools of agriculture would create 200,000 new jobs nationwide. Finally, this investment would contribute to solving the need for the U.S. to recruit and graduate 60,000 new U.S. graduates with agricultural expertise every year.

The pandemic has laid bare gaps and challenges in the American economy, but also demonstrates that the research, education, and Cooperative Extension outreach performed by the nation's colleges of agriculture have never been more relevant. The U.S. cannot rebuild our agricultural research prominence or keep up with international competitors when our research is done in facilities from the 1950s and 1960s. A transformative investment of \$11.5 billion in agricultural research infrastructure at colleges of agriculture would be a significant first step in an overall strategy to ensure that the U.S. remains globally competitive. Our request reflects plans to invest in research and development by providing land grant universities with funding to upgrade their research infrastructure, including brick-and-mortar facilities and computing capabilities and networks. With this type of once-in-a-generation investment, we can position the U.S. agricultural

sector to take the lead in developing climate innovations that provide new economic opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and producers.

This investment would reposition the United States for long-term success in food and agricultural research, education, and Extension, accelerate rural and urban economic recovery, achieve more diversity and equity in agriculture, and create the next-generation infrastructure needed to address the food and production challenges of feeding a growing world population.

Sincerely,

**National**

AGCO Corporation  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases  
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners  
American Association of Swine Veterinarians  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Olive Oil Producers Association  
American Phytopathological Society  
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 Veterinary Medical Association  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
BASF Agricultural Solutions  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Brewers Association  
Cherry Marketing Institute, Inc.  
ConAgra Brands  
Consumer Federation of America  
Corteva  
Council for Agriculture Research Extension & Teaching  
Crop Science Society of America  
CropLife America  
Dairy Farmers of America

Davis Family HLDGS  
Entomological Society of America  
Farm Credit Council  
Farm Journal Foundation  
FASS  
Hormel Foods  
Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals – Multistate Initiative  
National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Barley Improvement Committee  
National Bison Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Cotton Council  
National Grange  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Onion Association  
National Peach Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Noble Research Institute, LLC  
Non-Land Grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities  
North American Craft Maltsters Guild  
North American Invasive Species Management Association  
NQV8, LLC.  
Produce Marketing Associations  
Roberts Associates  
Rock Family Foundation  
Schwan's Company  
Society for Range Management  
Soil Science Society of America  
Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation  
The Breakthrough Institute  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Scoular Company  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United States Cattlemen's Association  
US Bank  
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee

US Rice Producers Association  
US Sweet Potato Council  
USA Rice  
Weed Science Society of America  
Wine Institute  
Yara North America

### **Regional**

Association of 1890 Research Directors  
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors  
Cape Fear Farm Credit  
Christensen Farms  
Cobb-Vantress, Inc.  
Cotton Growers Cooperative  
Delmarva Chicken Association  
Diamond Bar Capital LLC  
ISG  
Legacy Land and Financial Consulting, LLC  
North Central Cooperative Extension Association  
North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northharvest Bean Growers Association  
Northeast Equipment Dealers Assoc., Inc.  
Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Northern Pulse Growers Association  
Northwest Aquaculture Alliance  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
Pacific Northwest Canola Association  
Plains Grains, Inc.  
Prime Dirt Midwest Inc  
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Western Growers  
Western Society of Weed Science

### **States**

#### ***California***

Association of California Egg Farmers  
California Agriculture Irrigation Association  
California Alfalfa and Forage Association  
California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Bean Shippers Association  
California Cattlemen's Association  
California Cherry Growers and Industry Association  
California Citrus Mutual

California Citrus Research Foundation  
California Cotton Alliance  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California Pear Growers Association  
California Pork Producers Association  
California Seed Association  
California State Beekeepers Association  
California State Floral Association  
California Sweetpotato Council  
California Warehouse Association  
California Women for Agriculture  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)  
Olive Oil Commission of California  
Pacific Coast Renderers Association  
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association  
Pacific Seed Association  
Pesticide Applicators Professional Association  
Plant California Alliance

***Florida***

Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Forestry Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association  
Florida Strawberry Growers Association  
Glades Crop Care, Inc.  
R.C. Hatton Inc.

***Guam***

Farmers Cooperative Association of Guam  
Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District

***Hawaii***

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association  
Hawaii Papaya Industry Association  
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council  
Hawaii Tropical Flowers and Foliage Association  
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council

***Iowa***

America's Cultivation Corridor  
Ames Chamber of Commerce  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives  
Iowa Pork

Iowa Poultry Association  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Iowa State Dairy Association  
Iowa Turkey Federation  
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association  
Owl Lake Production Co.

***Idaho***

Idaho Barley Commission  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Idaho Wheat Commission

***Illinois***

Illinois Beef Association  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Illinois Soybean Association

***Indiana***

4M Dorsets/Indiana Lamb and Wool Check Off  
Belstra Milling Co.

***Kansas***

Diamond Bar Cattle LLC  
Kansas Bankers Association  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kansas Dairy  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas State University Foundation  
Kansas Wheat  
Tanner Red Angus

***Kentucky***

Capstone Farms

***Louisiana***

Black Farmers Hemp  
Circle of Faith CDC  
Clark Farm  
J. B. Guillory Group  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
M. Guillory Farms  
SUNO

***Massachusetts***

Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals  
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association

***Maryland***

MidAtlantic Farm Credit

**Maine**

Maine Farm Bureau Association  
Maine Potato Board  
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine

**Michigan**

Great Lakes Floral Association  
Michigan Agriculture Advancement  
Michigan Agritourism Association  
Michigan Apple  
Michigan Asparagus Research, Inc.  
Michigan Association of Timbermen  
Michigan Bean Commission  
Michigan Beekeepers Association  
Michigan Blueberry Commission  
Michigan Cattlemen's Association  
Michigan Cherry Committee  
Michigan Christmas Tree Association  
Michigan Corn  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Food Processors Association  
Michigan Forest Products Council  
Michigan Horse Council  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Michigan Processing Apple and Asparagus Growers  
Michigan Sheep Producers Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Michigan State Horticultural Society  
Michigan Tree Fruit Commission  
Michigan Wine Collaborative  
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
The Michigan Vegetable Council, INC.  
West Michigan Food Processing Association

**Minnesota**

MBOLD / Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Economic Development Partnership  
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council  
Minnesota Milk Producers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Orsten Turkeys of Willmar, Inc

**Missouri**

Missouri Farm Bureau  
Missouri Soybean Association

**Mississippi**

Blair Legacy Tree Farm, LLC

**Montana**

Hansen Grain Company  
Miner Ranch  
Montana Ag Experiment Station Advisory Council  
Montana Agricultural Business Association  
Montana Farm Bureau  
Montana FFA Foundation  
Montana Independent Bankers  
Montana Livestock Ag Credit  
Montana Organic Association  
Montana Wheat & Barley Committee  
Montana Wool Growers Association

**North Carolina**

AgCarolina Farm Credit  
Corn Growers Association of North Carolina  
North Carolina Christmas Tree Association  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
North Carolina Egg Association  
North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers Inc.  
North Carolina Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association  
North Carolina Peanut Association  
North Carolina Poultry Federation, Inc.  
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Assoc.  
North Carolina State Grange  
North Carolina Strawberry Association  
North Carolina SweetPotato Commission  
North Carolina Tomato Growers Association  
North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association  
North Carolina Watermelon Association

**North Dakota**

North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station  
North Dakota Crop Improvement & Seed Association  
North Dakota Farmers Union  
North Dakota Oilseed Council  
North Dakota Weed Control Association  
North Dakota Wheat Commission  
North West Land Owners Association

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Board of Managers  
New Jersey Farm Bureau

**Nevada**

Nevada Cattlemen's Association



**Ohio**

Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Ohio Pork Council  
Ohio Poultry Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
The J. M. Smucker Co.

**Oklahoma**

AFR/OFU Cooperative  
AgChoice Farm Credit  
American Plant Products and Services, Inc.  
Krehbiel Farms LLC  
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts  
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oklahoma Genetics, Inc.  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Pork Council  
Oklahoma Wheat Commission  
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

**Pennsylvania**

Eichenlaub, Inc.  
ERG Partners/PA Energy Resources Group  
Keystone Section of the Institute of Food Technologists  
PA Coop Potato Growers, Inc.  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania Equine Council  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania Forestry Association  
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association  
Pennsylvania State Grange  
Pennsylvania Winery Association

**South Carolina**

Palmetto Agribusiness Council  
South Carolina Beef Council  
South Carolina Cotton Board  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Peach Council  
South Carolina Peanut Board  
South Carolina Pork Board  
South Carolina Soybean Board

South Carolina Tobacco Board  
South Carolina Watermelon Association

***South Dakota***

South Dakota Association of Cooperatives

***Tennessee***

Tennessee Cattlemens Association  
Tennessee Corn Growers Association  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance  
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.  
Tennessee Poultry Association  
Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council

***Texas***

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association  
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas Hemp Growers Association  
Texas Independent Ginners Association  
Texas International Produce Association  
Texas Poultry Federation  
Texas Seed Trade Association  
Texas Vegetable Association  
Texas Wheat Producers Association

***Washington***

Washington Farm Bureau  
Washington Grain Commission  
Washington Red Raspberry Commission  
Washington Seed Potato Commission  
Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Washington State Wine Commission  
Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission

***Wisconsin***

Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association

CC: House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies