

August 28, 2018-via Email

The Hon. Pat Roberts
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Mike Conaway
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on
Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
Washington, DC 20510

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

RE: Support for Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)

Dear Senators Roberts and Stabenow and Congressmen Conaway and Peterson:

The Senate-passed Farm Bill contains enhanced funding of \$200 million for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). The undersigned urge conferees to include this provision in the final conference report. With U.S. agriculture facing increasing uncertainty, we strongly support these efforts to bring more resources and private sector collaboration to the table to ensure that American agriculture has the tools and technology to maintain their comparative edge globally.

Public investments in food and agricultural research have made U.S. agriculture the most productive in the world and a bright spot in our economy, with exports reaching \$152 billion in 2014. Today, U.S. farmers are struggling with low food prices, pests and disease, trade concerns, poor weather, and growing competition from countries like China and Brazil. To ensure American farmers have the best technology available to adapt to these challenges, we urge Congress to support smart research models like FFAR and other mandatory funding for agricultural research in the Farm Bill.

Established in the 2014 Farm Bill with an initial investment of \$200 million, FFAR is a unique public-private model for agriculture research, which matches each public dollar with at least one dollar of non-federal funding. This means that the U.S. government's \$200 million investment in FFAR will deliver more than \$400 million in scientific programming to benefit farmers and our food system, providing significant value for American taxpayers. By partnering with companies, foundations, universities, trade associations, and philanthropies, FFAR collaborates to solve some of the most crucial issues facing food and agriculture, such as improving yield through photosynthesis efficiency, providing emergency response to emerging pests and pathogens, improving soil and pollinator health, seeking the potential of vertical farming and utilizing big data to improve farmer profitability.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AeroFarms
Agricenter International
Agricultural Retailers Association
Algae Biomass Organization
American Angus Association
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Dairy Science Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Public Gardens Association
American Samoa Community College Land Grant Program
American Seed Trade Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Plant Biologists
Animal Digestible Food Packaging Initiative
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Association of 1890 Research Directors, Inc.
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Auvermann Enterprises, Inc.
Benson Hill Biosystems
Biogemma
Campbell Soup Company
Cedar Basin Crop Consulting , Inc.
Center for Environmental Farming Systems
Cherry Marketing Insitute
Chicken & Egg Association of Minnesota
Colorado State University
Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station
Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, University of Nebraska
Edesia
Elo Life Systems
Entomological Society of America
Fair Food Network
Farm Journal Foundation
FASS, Inc.
Fats and Proteins Research Foundation
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Food Marketing Institute
Food Tank
Georgia Tech Research Institute
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Global Harvest Initiative
Greenway Farms
Grow to Market
Heuristic Management, LLC
III Ag, LLC
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Poultry Association
Iowa State University
Irrigation Association
Kansas Wheat Commission
Kirchner Food Fellowship
Kirchner Group
Limagrain
Marrone Bio Innovations
Michigan State University AgBioResearch
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mississippi State University
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multistate Initiative
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Chicken Council

National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR)
National Corn Growers Association
National Grange
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Turfgrass Federation, Inc.
New Mexico State University
Noble Research Institute, LLC
North American Millers' Association
North Carolina State University
Ohio Soybean Association
Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences
Pennsylvania State Grange
PepsiCo
Pollinator Partnership
Purdue University
Rijk Zwaan - USA
Soil Health Institute
Soil Science Society of America
Sugar Association
Sustainable Food Center
Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance
SyNRGE, LLC
Texas Poultry Federation
The Conservation Fund
The Fertilizer Institute
The National Grazing Lands Coalition
The University of Florida
The University of Georgia
United Egg Producers
University of California Davis
University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR)
University of California, Riverside
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Minnesota
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee
US Poultry & Egg Association
USPOULTRY Foundation
Veterinarians Without Borders
Villwock Farms

Wallace Center at Winrock International
Washington State University
Weed Science Society of America
Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development
Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment
World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association

CC: Conferees