

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Michael Conaway
Ranking Member, House Agriculture
Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman, House Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman, House Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member, House Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As organizations concerned about the future of food and agricultural science, the undersigned are writing to express our support for the *America Grows Act* (H.R.4714), a bill Congresswoman Bustos has recently introduced that would significantly increase our nation's investment in agricultural research and development.

Food and agriculture remain a pillar of the U.S. economy, accounting for nearly \$1 trillion of our GDP, 1 in 10 jobs, and a significant contribution to our nation's trade balance. Our nation has long understood the critical role agriculture and our food system play in our economic and national security. Thanks to the U.S. government's extraordinary leadership and commitment to agricultural research and development since 1862, our agriculture sector is the most productive in the world, providing Americans with safe, affordable, and abundant food.

The public return on investment for agricultural research is significant, estimated at \$20 to \$1. Yet U.S. funding in this area has declined in real dollars since 2003 while other forms of domestic research have risen dramatically.

The *America Grows Act* would help reverse this dangerous trend by reinvesting in our nation's scientists and producers and helping reassert U.S. research leadership on the global stage. Modeled after the successful *21st Century Cures Act* passed in 2016, which spurred additional funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the *America Grows Act* authorizes a five percent inflation-adjusted annual increase for the next five years for agricultural research in the following USDA agencies:

- National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- Economic Research Service (ERS)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

The timing for the *America Grows Act* could not be better. Investments in research are critical in addressing production, nutrition, food security, and other major challenges across the U.S. food and agricultural sector. USDA projected 2019 net-farm income to be half that of 2013. An unusually wet spring has led to flooding and one of the latest planting seasons on record for much of the Midwest. Our nation’s producers are facing pest, disease, and severe weather challenges that research can solve.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work on behalf of agriculture and agricultural research. We look forward to working with you to advance the *America Grows Act*. This legislation represents a crucial step in meeting the vital needs of our nation’s producers and consumers while retaining our status as the world leader in agricultural innovation.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	American Society of Agronomy	Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
AFRI Coalition	American Society of Animal Science	Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association	American Society of Plant Biologists	Crop Science Society of America
Agricultural Retailers Association	American Statistical Association	Ecological Society of America
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases	American Veterinary Medical Association	Entomological Society of America
American Dairy Science Association	Aquatic Plant Management Society	Eversole Associates
American Farm Bureau Federation	Association of 1890 Research Directors	Experiment Station Committee on Organization & Policy (ESCOP)
American Malting Barley Association	Association of American Universities	Farm Journal Foundation
American Phytopathological Society (APS)	Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges	FASS
American Pulse Association	Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities	Friends of ARS Coalition
American Seed Trade Association	Brooks Tropicals, LLC	Fort Valley State University
American Society for Horticultural Science	Charles V. Riley Memorial Foundation	Hop Growers of America
American Society for Microbiology	College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University	Hop Growers of Washington
American Society for Nutrition	Consumer Federation of America	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
		Institute of Food Technologists

IR-4 Project	National Farmers Union	Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
Kauffman's Animal Health	National Grange	
Michigan State University	National Pork Producers Council	Southern Weed Science Society
Michigan State University AgBioResearch	National Sunflower Association	Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation
Midwest Poultry Consortium	National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition	Union of Concerned Scientists
Minnesota Canola Council	National Turfgrass Federation (NTF)	United States Cattlemen's Association
Montana State University	North American Millers' Association	University of California, Davis
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multistate Initiative	North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA)	University of California System
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance	North Central Weed Science Society	University of Delaware
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science	Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
National Association of Plant Breeders	Northeastern Weed Science Society	University of Maryland
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture	Oklahoma State University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
National Association of University Forest Research Programs (NAUFRP)	Oregon State University	University of Wyoming
National Barley Growers Association	Pollinator Partnership	US Canola Association
National Barley Improvement Committee	Poultry Science Association	US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research	Robinson Oak Lea Farm	US Dry Bean Council
National Corn Growers Association	Rural & Agriculture Council of America	USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
National Cotton Council	Society for Range Management	Weed Science Society of America
	Soil and Water Conservation Society	Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
	Soil Science Society of America	Western Society of Weed Science

CC: The Honorable Cheri Bustos