December 6, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
The Honorable Jack Kingston, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chair
The Honorable Sam Brownback, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Representatives DeLauro and Kingston and Senators Kohl and Brownback:

As Congress works to complete legislation to fund operations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 2011, we write to express our concern about the potential impact that eliminating Congressionally-directed spending projects will have on the overall resources available for agricultural research.

Many of our institutions and organizations have sought special research grants or federal administration grants to address specific, targeted needs on behalf of specific needs in our various states. If Congress chooses to fund government operations for the balance of fiscal year 2011 through a continuing resolution, we are concerned that these funds would not be provided. Similarly, additional investments in capacity, competitive, and intramural research programs are also at risk in a continuing resolution.

When faced with a similar situation in writing legislation for fiscal year 2007, you recognized the serious implications that eliminating these funds would have on institutions of higher learning and on the agricultural producers who benefit from these research and extension programs. To address this need, you wisely provided commensurate increases in formula-based research and extension accounts to accommodate the loss of these funds in FY2007.

We encourage you to preserve these funds for agricultural research and extension by taking similar action this year, if conditions dictate, to maintain funding in capacity, competitive, and intramural research programs.

We appreciate your past support for research and extension programs which serve our diverse memberships and appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,
American Dairy Science Association
American Dietetic Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Horse Council
American Malting Barley Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Society of Animal Science
American Soybean Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Institute of Food Technologies
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Michigan State University
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Farmers Union
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association
South Dakota Wheat Inc
U.S. Canola Association
US Rice Producers Association
USA Rice Federation
West Virginia University