

April 24, 2023

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 Glenn Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Thank you for your support for agricultural research, education, Extension, and innovation. *As you consider compelling initiatives to support rural America and investments in the agricultural economy, we strongly urge you to support \$5 billion in mandatory funding over five years through the Research Facilities Act within Title VII of the next Farm Bill.* This catalytic investment would advance the critical work being done at public colleges of agriculture, veterinarian, forestry, and natural resources across the country. Updated facilities would support American jobs, enable the recruitment of diverse workforce talent, address agricultural production challenges, and ensure U.S. leadership in food and agricultural innovation.

Modern agricultural research and education facilities are the foundation of the nation's cutting-edge research and applied science solutions. A 2021 report by Gordian assessed the state of facilities at U.S. colleges and schools of agriculture and reported that 70 percent of these buildings are at the end of their useful life. The report estimated the cost to upgrade deferred maintenance at \$11.5 billion, and the cost to replace the dilapidated facilities at \$38.1 billion. It further stated that strategic federal investment in these facilities at 1862, 1890, 1994, insular land-grant and non-land-grant schools of agriculture would create 200,000 new jobs nationwide. This investment would also contribute to the critical need for the U.S. to recruit and graduate 60,000 new U.S. students with agricultural expertise every year.

Challenges related to crop and livestock diseases, soil health and quality, supply chain efficiencies, and agricultural markets demonstrate that the research, education, and Cooperative Extension outreach performed by America's colleges of agriculture have never been more relevant. The U.S. cannot rebuild our agricultural research prominence or keep up with international competitors with facilities built in the 1950s and 1960s.

An investment of \$5 billion in agricultural research infrastructure at colleges of agriculture would be a significant step in an overall strategy to ensure that the U.S. remains globally competitive. With this once-in-a-generation investment in research facilities at colleges of agriculture, we can spur new economic opportunities and innovations for farmers, ranchers, and producers in every state.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

## National

AgInnovation (State Agricultural Experiment Stations)  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Cranberry Growers Association  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American National Cattle Women, Inc.  
American Pulse Association  
American Quarter Horse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
AmericanHort  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities  
Beef Improvement Federation  
Brewers Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)  
Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding  
Cranberry Institute  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Ecological Society of America  
Glades Crop Care, Inc.  
Hop Growers of America  
Hormel Foods  
International Fresh Produce Association  
Johnny's Selected Seeds  
National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization  
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Grange  
National Grazing Lands Coalition  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sunflower Association  
Noble Research Institute, LLC  
North American Blueberry Council  
North American Millers' Association

Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.  
Stantec  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy  
U.S. Canola Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
Weed Science Society of America

Regional

AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
American Plant Products & Service, Inc.  
American Sugar Cane League  
Association of 1890 Research Directors  
Belstra Milling Co., Inc.  
Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties  
Compeer Financial  
North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Northwest Alfalfa Seed Growers Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Pacific Coast Cranberry Research Foundation  
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Western Extension Directors Association (WEDA)  
Western Society of Weed Science

States/Territories

*Alabama*

Alabama Cattlemen's Association

*Arkansas*

Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association  
Arkansas Farm Bureau  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
The Poultry Federation

*Arizona*

Arizona Aquaculture Association  
Arizona Cattle Growers' Association

*California*

Association of California Egg Farmers  
California Agriculture Irrigation Association  
California Alfalfa and Forage Association  
California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Bean Shippers Association  
California Cherry Growers and Industry Association  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton Alliance  
California Farm Bureau  
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 Sweet Potato 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  
Plant California Alliance

*Colorado*

Colorado Cattlemen's Association  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Colorado Potato Legislative Association

*Florida*

Florida Aquaculture Association  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Forestry Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Peanut Producers Association  
Florida Strawberry Growers Association  
Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association

*Georgia*

Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Cattlemen's Association  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Department of Agriculture

Georgia Green Industry Association, Inc.  
Georgia Milk Producers  
Georgia Pecan Growers Association  
Georgia Poultry Federation

*Guam*

Farmers Cooperative Association of Guam

*Hawaii*

Alluvion, Inc.  
BEI Hawaii  
County of Maui  
Grace Flowers Hawaii  
Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts  
Hawaii Avocado Association  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Hawaii Export Nursery Association  
Hawaii Farm Bureau  
Hawaii Floriculture Nursery Association (HFNA)  
Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers  
Ma'alahi Farm  
Mahiku A'o Mai  
Mala Kaluulu Cooperative  
Maris Gardens LLC  
Maui County  
Maui County Farm Bureau  
Pacific International Center for High Technology Research  
Puna Flower Power  
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council

*Idaho*

Idaho Wheat Commission  
Idaho Wool Growers Association

*Illinois*

Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Pork Producers  
Illinois Soybean Association

*Kansas*

Kansas Bankers Association  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
McCracken Livestock

Porter Cattle Co.

*Kentucky*

Community Inspired Lexington  
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association

*Louisiana*

Louisiana Forestry Association  
Louisiana Rice Research Board  
Louisiana Soybean & Grain Research & Promotion Board

*Massachusetts*

Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association  
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

*Maryland*

Delmarva Chicken Association  
Horizon Farm Credit  
J R Frazee Strategic Consulting, LLC  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Sustainable Chesapeake

*Maine*

Maine Farm Bureau Association  
Maine Grown by Vets  
Maine Landscape and Nursery Association  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maine Potato Board  
Pierson Nurseries Inc.  
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine

*Michigan*

Bear Creek Organic Farm  
Brevant Seeds  
Cherry Marketing Institute  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries  
Michigan Apple Association  
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts  
Michigan Bean Commission  
Michigan Blueberry Commission  
Michigan Cattlemen's Association  
Michigan Corn Growers Association  
Michigan Crop Improvement Assn.  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS)  
Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council

Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Michigan Processing Apple Growers  
Michigan Processing Asparagus Growers  
Michigan Sheep Producers Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Michigan State Horticultural Society  
Michigan Tree Fruit Commission  
Michigan Turfgrass Foundation  
Michigan Vegetable Council  
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.  
Village of L'Anse  
VitaPlus  
West Michigan Food Processing Association  
White Pine Winery & Vineyards LLC

*Minnesota*

Davis Family Dairy  
Holden Farms  
Minneapolis Saint Paul Economic Development  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Milk  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association  
Rosen's Diversified, Inc  
Twin Eagle Dairy

*Missouri*

Missouri Soybean Association

*Northern Mariana Islands*

Kagman Agricultural Farms and Producers Association Inc.

*Mississippi*

Mississippi Cattlemen's Association

*Montana*

Montana Farmers Union  
Montana Grain Growers Association

*North Carolina*

North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association  
North Carolina Blueberry Council  
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
North Carolina Certified SweetPotato Seed Growers Association  
North Carolina Dairy Producers Association

North Carolina Peach Growers' Society  
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association  
North Carolina Pork Council  
North Carolina Poultry Federation  
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association  
North Carolina State Grange  
North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission  
North Carolina Tomato Growers Association  
North Carolina Winegrower's Association

*North Dakota*

North Dakota Stockmen's Association

*New Hampshire*

Butternut Farm LLC  
D.S. Cole Growers  
DeMeritt Hill Farm LLC  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau  
New Hampshire Fruit Growers' Association  
New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)  
Poverty Lane Orchards  
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
Stuart Farm LLC  
Town of Durham, New Hampshire Agricultural Commission

*New Jersey*

Chairman of New Jersey Blueberry Cranberry Research Council, Paul Galletta  
Joseph J White, Inc  
New Jersey Blueberry Advisory Council  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
New Jersey Farm Bureau  
Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey

*New Mexico*

Alpers Resource Management  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts  
New Mexico Beef Council  
New Mexico Cattle Growers  
New Mexico Chile Association  
New Mexico Cotton Growers Association  
New Mexico Crop Production Association  
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau

*New York*

Atwater Farms LLC

*Nevada*

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association  
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

*Ohio*

Ohio Aquaculture Association  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Farmers Union

*Oklahoma*

Krehbiel Farms LLC  
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, Inc.  
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts  
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oklahoma Genetics Inc.  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Pork Council  
Oklahoma Sorghum Growers  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Wheat Commission  
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

*Oregon*

Oregon Cattlemen's Association

*Pennsylvania*

Adams County Nursery, Inc  
Ag Alumni Society Member/ Council Member  
Blommer Chocolate  
Blossom Hollow Farm, LLC  
Clearfield County PSU Extension Executive Council  
Colebrook Manor Animal Hospital  
Elm Ridge Farm  
HMS Haven Farms  
Indiana County Farm Bureau  
Keystone IFT, Penn State Cooperative Extension Council  
Lawrence Co Social Services  
Northeast Equipment Dealers Association  
Penn State Ag Alumni Society

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts  
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association  
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Assn.  
Pennsylvania Livestock Association  
Ranck & Associates LLC  
Sylvan Inc.  
Valley Mobile Veterinary Service

*South Carolina*

Palmetto Agribusiness Council  
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association

*Tennessee*

Tennessee Cattleman's Association

*Texas*

Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas International Produce Association  
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association  
Texas Pecan Growers Association  
Texas Vegetable Association

*Utah*

Utah Cattlemen's Association

*Virginia*

Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Poultry Federation

*Virgin Islands*

St. Croix Farmers in Action Inc.  
We Grow Food Inc.

*Washington*

Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Washington Grain Commission  
Washington Mint Growers  
Washington Red Raspberry Commission  
Washington Seed Potato Commission  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Washington State Tree Fruit Association  
Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission  
Washington Wine Institute  
Western Washington Agricultural Association

Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association

*Wisconsin*

Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association

Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association

*West Virginia*

West Virginia Conservation Agency

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

West Virginia Farm Bureau

West Virginia Forestry Association

*Wyoming*

Wyoming Stock Growers Association