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May 1, 2009—via E-mail

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
The Honorable Jack Kingston, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY10 Appropriations—Increase Funding for Food and Agricultural RE&E

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The undersigned organizations urge the Subcommittee to increase funding for the new Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to at least \$300 million in FY10 (exclusive of any funding identified for the former Section 406 programs) as a first step toward funding AFRI at the fully authorized level of \$700 million annually. AFRI, the successor to USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI) and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS), is an integrated approach that takes research and innovation beyond the development phase, into implementation through contemporary education and extension programs.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 established the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a new competitive grants program authorized at \$700 million annually, for research, extension, and education in support of our nation's food and agricultural systems within USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

We support full funding of AFRI at the authorized level of \$700 million annually, and urge the Subcommittee to fully fund AFRI as soon as practicable, by FY13 at the latest. This is consistent with President Obama's commitment to return our nation to sound science. With the nation and world seeking solutions for climate change, sustainable fuel production, ecosystem health, food security and nutrition challenges, now is the time to grow investment in our nation's food and agricultural research.

Thank you for your leadership action in investing in America's food and agriculture system.

Respectfully Submitted,

American Dietetic Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Soybean Association

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS)
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
Institute of Food Technologists
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Oat Improvement Committee
National Sunflower Association
National Wheat Improvement Committee
North American Millers' Association
North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS)
Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS)
Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS)
The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE)
The Peanut Foundation
Professor Robert L. Thompson, Gardner Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy Agricultural &
Consumer Economics Dept., University of Illinois
US Canola Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)
Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS)