



## NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

September 9, 2011—via e-mail

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for Charitable Agricultural Research Act**

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Senator Thune:

On behalf of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR), I am pleased to express our coalition's support for the Charitable Agricultural Research Act, legislation which we understand you will be introducing shortly to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to agricultural research organizations.

We have reviewed the legislative language, and it is consistent with the position adopted by our Board of Directors earlier this year, as follows:

National C-FAR supports the creation of an Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), a new type of charitable organization devoted to food and agricultural research with an IRS tax structure similar to the medical research organizations.

Funding for agricultural research through ARO's is not a substitute for needed increases in federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education.

National C-FAR serves as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. National C-FAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition established in 2001 that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource organizations together with the food and agriculture research and extension community.

National C-FAR believes the nation has a serious food and agricultural research, extension and education deficit, just as the nation has a budget deficit. This food and agricultural science funding deficit is serious, long running and unsustainable. Failure to address this research deficit will have real negative consequences, not just to the agriculture and food system but to the entire nation and U.S. economy. Funding for agricultural research through ARO's can provide an important complement to critical federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education.

We look forward to supporting your bipartisan efforts to move this important legislation to enactment.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas (Tom) Van Arsdall, Executive Director