January 30, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt, Chair
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Budget Resolution Providing Adequate Resources to Meet Food & Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Needs and Other Farm Bill Challenges and Opportunities

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We the undersigned urge the Committee on the Budget to provide adequate resources in the Budget Resolution to meet food and agricultural research, extension and education needs and other current and future Farm Bill challenges and opportunities.

We strongly support enhanced federal investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education. Chronic funding shortfalls jeopardize the food and agricultural community’s continued ability to maintain its leadership role. As Congress reauthorizes the farm bill this year, there are both increased challenges and new opportunities that must be considered and addressed.

This year’s Budget Resolution must adequately provide for the full range of farm bill programs to give Congress the flexibility to authorize and adequately fund food and agricultural research, extension and education programs. Studies repeatedly demonstrate that federal investments in research consistently pay huge dividends to the Nation. Research and extension projects and the outcomes they provide will be essential to the food and agricultural system’s future success.

Respectfully Submitted,

American Dietetic Association
American Society of Agronomy
American society of Plant Biologists
American Veterinary Medical Association
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Crop Science Society of America
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Institute of Food Technologists
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Weed Science Society
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Collin Peterson
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable Mike Johanns