

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

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September 22, 2014

The Honorable Mark Pryor  
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Farr  
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pryor, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Blunt and Ranking Member Farr:

We appreciate your leadership in providing additional investment in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). These funding decisions, in the face of tight budgets and difficult choices, will result in meaningful contributions to the agricultural economy and society as a whole.

As you work to finish fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), we urge you to continue to support at least \$325 million for AFRI as provided in both the House and Senate FY15 Agriculture Appropriations bills.

The undersigned, a broad and diverse collection of organizations, scientific societies and interest groups, strongly support increased funding for AFRI to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges including human, animal, and plant health, emerging plant pest risks, drought, food safety and security.

The importance of AFRI was reiterated again in the recently released National Research Council report, [\*Spurring Innovation in Food and Agriculture: A Review of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Program\*](#). The report concludes that AFRI, despite its critical role, "has not been adequately given the resources needed to meet contemporary and likely future challenges."

The scope, intensity, complexity, and urgency of those issues have been increasing, and demands on AFRI exceed what can reasonably be expected given AFRI's recent funding levels.

The report goes on to recommend that the U.S. "should strengthen its public investment in competitive agricultural R&D to ensure that it continues its role of a global leader in the innovations and technologies that are needed to promote health and well-being and to feed growing worldwide populations sustainably."

The budgetary decisions made today have far reaching impacts: research funded today will be responsible for enhancing the nation's agricultural productivity and economic prosperity in the future.

We look forward to supporting you in this important effort and thank you for your support of AFRI.

Sincerely,

American Dairy Science Association  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Society of Horticultural Science  
American Society of Microbiology  
American Society of Nutrition  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Association of American Universities  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities  
Crop Science Society of America  
Dairy Science Association  
Entomological Society of America  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Institute of Food Technologists  
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science  
National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Poultry Science Association  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Society of Weed Science