

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD  
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2010

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HEARINGS  
BEFORE A  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND  
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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NOTE: Under Committee Rules, Mr. Obey, as Chairman of the Full Committee, and Mr. Lewis, as Ranking  
Minority Member of the Full Committee, are authorized to sit as Members of all Subcommittees.

MARTHA FOLEY, LESLIE BARRACK, JASON WELLER, and MATT SMITH,  
*Staff Assistants*

**PART 2**  
**TESTIMONY OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND**  
**ORGANIZATIONS**



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Printed for the use of the Committee on Appropriations

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AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2010**

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0524**

**Testimony of Congressman Elton Gallegly**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies**  
**May 1, 2009**

I appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food Safety and Inspection Service, and respectfully request the Subcommittee's continued support for sufficient funding to ensure the Food Safety and Inspection Service has the necessary resources to vigorously enforce the provisions of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA). In addition, I am requesting that the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations bill include language to rectify specific problems in the manner in which the HMSA is being enforced.

The importance of the HMSA was demonstrated in February 2008, when the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company of Chino, California recalled approximately 143 million pounds of raw and frozen beef products after an undercover investigation revealed recurrent violations of food safety and humane slaughter rules. These violations were especially troubling because this plant was the second largest beef supplier to the National School Lunch Program. It had also been honored by USDA as "Supplier of the Year" for the 2004-2005 academic year. Unfortunately, subsequent investigations demonstrated this was not an isolated case. On November 28, 2008, the USDA's Office of Inspector General issued an Audit Report that identified several serious, continuing weaknesses in the USDA pre-slaughter inspection regime.

I urge the Subcommittee to protect both consumers and animals by addressing the remaining problems in the Food Safety and Inspection Service's oversight of the federal HMSA as identified in the Inspector General's report. Specifically, the Subcommittee should include language to ensure that inspectors are continually observing live animals throughout the pre-slaughter and slaughter process, require USDA officials to increase enforcement of the HMSA, and continue the prohibition of the slaughter of cattle too sick or injured to stand and walk.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify regarding the need for stronger enforcement of the HMSA in order to improve food safety and animal welfare. Thank you for your consideration.

(1)

**House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and  
Related Agencies**

**Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations**

**Testimony of Representative Sander M. Levin**

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for your consideration of a \$203 million request for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program within the Food and Nutrition Service. I present this testimony on behalf of the 41,000 monthly CSFP participants in the metropolitan Detroit area as well as the 475,000 monthly participants in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program was our nation's first food assistance effort with monthly food packages designed to provide protein, calcium, iron, and vitamins A and C. It began in 1969 for low-income mothers and children, preceding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC. Pilot programs in 1983 added low-income seniors to the list of eligible participants and they now comprise 93% all participants.

CSFP is a unique federal/state and public/private effort. The USDA purchases specific nutrient-rich foods at wholesale prices for distribution. State agencies such as the departments of health, agriculture or education provide administration and oversight. These agencies contract with community and faith based organizations to warehouse and distribute food, certify eligibility and educate participants. The local organizations build broad collaboration among non-profits, health units, and area agencies on aging so that seniors and others can quickly receive their monthly supplemental food package along with nutrition education to improve their health and quality of life. This unique partnership reaches even homebound seniors in both rural and urban settings with vital nutrition.

The foods provided through CSFP include canned fruits and vegetables, juices, meats, fish, peanut butter, cereals and grain products, cheese, and other dairy products that increase healthy food consumption among these low-income populations.

The CSFP is also an important "market" for commodities supported under various farm programs, as well as an increasingly important instrument in meeting the nutritional and dietary needs of special low-income populations.

I have seen firsthand the dilemma many people, particularly the elderly, find themselves in today. Low-income seniors who are living on fixed incomes are facing an increasingly difficult challenge in making their limited resources take care of all of their daily needs. They are making choices between whether to eat, take their medicine, or pay their utility bills because their income does not allow them to fully provide for themselves. Many of participants who receive delivery

of their commodities are unable to leave their homes. The food, as well as the visit from the volunteer, are important in assisting them to maintain their independence and maintain a healthier lifestyle thus lowering their need for assisted living and increased medical care.

CSFP providers partner with many others in their communities to distribute the monthly food packages to seniors who are unable to come to the fixed sites. Businesses, schools, city and county offices work to make sure that the food is delivered each month to those who are isolated and homebound. In addition, many of the CSFP operators provide additional services to their participants such as having available additional fresh fruits and vegetables and other donated foods, health screenings, and referrals to other agencies

Through this use of its resources and volunteer base, as well as the relatively low cost of the food packages, the CSFP has shown itself to be effective and efficient in improving the health of our seniors and allowing our children to reach their full potential. In a recent study of CSFP, the Urban Institute found that the “administrative simplicity and familiar and comfortable atmosphere of the program are clearly attractions to a population that needs assistance but may be reluctant to seek help in settings it perceives as bureaucratic, stigmatized, or unsympathetic. The fact that the foods distributed are highly valued is clearly another [benefit].”

The National CSFP Association estimates that an appropriation of \$203 million would allow the maintenance of service at existing sites in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations; the expansion of service at these sites to meet the growing need experienced by all food assistance programs; and to finally begin service in six states (Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Utah) with approved state plans that have been waiting up to six years.

It is finally time to expand CSFP. Rising food costs and other unanticipated economic factors have prevented the intended Congressional expansion over the past three years. Since 2007, Congress has increased funding for CSFP from \$107 in FY 2007 to \$160 million for FY 2009, and yet the program is barely able to maintain caseload. With a new administration strongly in support of the program, I urge you to work together to allocate a substantial increase for CSFP.

I thank you for your consideration and the work you have done thus far. I look forward to continue working with you to ensure no American goes hungry.



**POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT**

**Office of Budget**

Kolonia, Pohnpei State, FM 96941

Daniel William

Chief Representative of Pingelap

March 23, 2009

Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Concerning

**Support for the Regional Aquaculture Center Program**

To the Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

This letter is my written testimony in support of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) and the Regional Aquaculture Center program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Education, Research, and Extension Service. As the External Assistance Coordinator for the Pohnpei State Government, I urge you to support the Regional Aquaculture Center program at the appropriated level of funding of \$7.5 million.

I am Chief Representative of Pingelap Atoll (pop. 400), located 130 miles from Pohnpei, where the capital of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is located. As a small, remote atoll, Pingelap has very limited resources from which to generate income. A community based black pearl oyster project led by Masahiro Ito and supported by the College of Micronesia Land Grant Program (COM) and CTSA, in collaboration with the Pohnpei State Government, Division of Fisheries and Aquaculture, has a goal of commercially farming black pearl oysters on Pingelap, Pakin (pop. 100), and Mwoakilloa (pop. 200) Atolls. In addition to conducting site surveys, making their selections, and deploying farm systems and equipment, this project has demonstrated and provided training in pearl oyster farming skills to more than 100 youths on Pohnpei and the three neighboring atolls.

Under the leadership of the Pingelap Municipal Office, the Pingelap community has completed the first stage of a long-term operational planning and pearl business management plan by deploying 10 sets of a line culture system for growing out black lip pearl oysters and has implemented a timetable to transport 15,000 pearl oyster juveniles from the hatchery on Pohnpei in May 2009. Based on anticipated results of grafting operations to commence in 2009, half-pearl (value-added pearl products that are used for making pendants and other pearl jewelry accessories) production from the three atolls is estimated to be valued at \$25,000 in 2010, increasing to \$250,000 by 2014. Grafting operations for round pearls at the three atolls, to commence in 2011, is estimated to produce pearls valued at \$360,000 in 2013. The income generated by Pingelap's contribution to this effort represents a very significant addition to the economy of our atoll. The on-going CTSA-funded project will elucidate the mechanism of "circled pearl" formation and provide new information on improving product quality. As a result

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**POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT****Office of Budget**

Kolonia, Pohnpei State, FM 96941

Daniel William

Chief Representative of Pingelap

of this work, Pingelap and the other atolls will add to the value of black pearl oyster farming in Micronesia.

The impact of CTSA, which includes Hawaii and the American Insular Pacific, affects the largest geographical area of any of the Regional Aquaculture Centers. CTSA has demonstrated its commitment to partnering with regional organizations, such as the COM, the Community-Based Fisheries Management Program in the FSM, the Pakin Community Association, the Mwoakilloa Municipal Government, the Pohnpei State Marine Development Program, and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, to develop a thriving aquaculture industry in the FSM. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for this program that has been instrumental in the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry in the FSM.

Very truly yours,

Daniel William, Chief Representative of Pingelap  
Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia

**GRANT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

This is to certify that I have not received any U.S. Federal grants during the past three fiscal years.

Daniel William  
Chief Representative of Pingelap  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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**Daniel S. William**  
P.O. Box 2040  
Kolonia, Pohnpei  
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**EDUCATION**

Eastern Arizona College (1980-1982)  
Thatcher, AZ  
Associate of Science in General Studies, 1982  
FSM Student Scholarship recipient, school year 1982

Northern Arizona University (1982-1985)  
Flagstaff, AZ  
Yokwe Yok scholarship recipient, school year 1983  
B.S. International Relations, minor in Public Administration, 1984  
Graduate study in Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation, 1984-1985

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (July 1992-September 1992)  
Haifa, Israel  
Certificate in Urban Planning and Management, 1992

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Pingelap Mayoral Representative in Pohnpei (2008-present)  
Pingelap Municipal Government

External Assistance Coordinator (2001-present)  
Budget Office  
Pohnpei State Government

Classroom Teacher (1999-2001)  
Department of Education  
Pohnpei State Government

Pingelap Election Commissioner (1998-2000)  
Pingelap Municipal Government

Chief Clerk, Pingelap Second Constitutional Convention (1999)  
Pingelap Municipal Government

Planning Specialist (1989-1998)  
Office of Budget, Planning & Statistics  
Pohnpei State Government

Personnel Management Specialist (1985-1989)  
Office of Personnel, Labor & Manpower Development  
Pohnpei State Government

**Pickle Packers International, Inc.**  
 1620 I Street, N W, Suite 925  
 Washington, DC 20006

**Statement of Concern for Sustained and Increased Research Funding  
 USDA/Agricultural Research Service**

**Summary**

Sustained and increased funding is desperately needed to maintain the research momentum built over recent years and to defray rising fixed costs at laboratory facilities. Companies in the pickled vegetable industry generously participate in short-term research, but the expense for long-term research needed to insure future competitiveness is too great for individual companies to shoulder on their own.

**Budget Requests for FY 2010**

Funding needs for four USDA/ARS laboratories are as follows:

**I. Requests for Restoration of Funds not expected in the Presidential Budget**

\$9,200,000 U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, South Carolina  
 [Note: These funds are for the design (\$700,000) and construction (\$8,500,000) of the final phases of the planned greenhouse complex.]  
**\$9,200,000 Total Restoration Requests**

**II. Requests for New Funds**

\$500,000 Emerging Disease of Crops (HS)  
 \$300,000 Quality and Utilization of Agricultural Products & Food Safety (HS)  
 \$292,963 Applied Crop Genomics  
 \$200,000 Specialty Crops  
**\$1,292,963 Total New Funds Requested**

**USDA/ARS Research Provides:**

- Consumers with over 150 safe and healthful vegetable varieties providing vitamins A, C, folate, magnesium, potassium, calcium, and phytonutrients such as antioxidant carotenoids and anthocyanins.
- Genetic resistance for many major vegetable diseases, assuring sustainable crop production with reduced pesticide residues – valued at nearly \$1 billion per year in increased crop production.
- Classical plant breeding methods combined with bio-technological tools, such as DNA marker-assisted selection and genome maps.
- New vegetable products with economic opportunities amidst increasing foreign competition.
- Improved varieties suitable for machine harvesting, assuring post harvest quality and marketability.
- Fermentation and acidification processing techniques to improve the efficiency of energy use while continuing to assure safety and quality of our products.
- Methods for delivering living pro-biotic microorganisms in fermented or acidified vegetables.
- New technology and systems for rapid inspection, sorting and grading of pickling vegetable products.

**Health and Economical Benefits**

- Health agencies continue to encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, useful in preventing heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and obesity.
- Vegetable crops, including cucumbers, peppers, carrots, onions, garlic and cabbage (sauerkraut), are considered “specialty” crops and not part of commodity programs supported by taxpayer subsidies.
- Current farm value for just cucumbers, onions and garlic is estimated at \$2.3 billion with a processed value of \$5.8 billion. These vegetables are grown and/or manufactured in all 50 states.

**Thank you for your consideration and expression of support for the USDA/ARS.**

## Pickle Packers International, Inc.

*Serving the pickled vegetable industry for over 100 years*

### A Statement of Concern for Sustained and Increased Research Funding USDA/Agricultural Research Service

#### Food Fermentation Laboratory, USDA/ARS

Department of Food Science  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Research Leader, Dr. Roger McFeeters

#### Vegetable Crops Research Lab, USDA/ARS

Department of Horticulture  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Research Leader, Dr. Philipp Simon

#### US Vegetable Laboratory, USDA/ARS

Charleston, South Carolina  
Research Leader, Dr. Richard Fry

#### Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit, USDA/ARS

East Lansing, Michigan  
Research Leader, Dr. Renfu Lu

The pickled vegetable industry strongly supports and encourages your committee in its work of maintaining and guiding the Agricultural Research Service. To accomplish the goal of improved health and quality of life for the American people, the health action agencies of this country continue to encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables in our diets. Accumulating evidence from the epidemiology and biochemistry of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity supports this policy. Vitamins (particularly A, C, and folic acid), minerals, and a variety of antioxidant phytochemicals in plant foods are thought to be the basis for correlations between high fruit and vegetable consumption and reduced incidence of these debilitating and deadly diseases. The problem is that many Americans choose not to consume the variety and quantities of fruits and vegetables that are needed for better health.

As a nation representing processors that produce over 85 percent of the tonnage of pickled vegetables in North America, it is our goal to produce new products that increase the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture as well as meet the demands of an increasingly diverse U.S. population that is encouraged to eat more vegetables. The profit margins of growers continue to be narrowed by foreign competition. Likewise, the people of this country represent a never-broadening array of expectations, tastes and preferences derived from many cultural backgrounds. Everyone, however, faces the common dilemma that food costs should remain stable and preparation time continues to be squeezed by the other demands of life. This industry can grow by meeting these expectations and demands with reasonably priced products of good texture and flavor that are high in nutritional value, low in negative environmental impacts, and produced with assured safety from pathogenic microorganisms and from those who would use food as a vehicle for terror. With strong research to back us up, we believe our industry can make a greater contribution toward reducing product costs and improving human diets and health for all economic strata of U.S. society.

Many small to medium sized growers and processing operations are involved in the pickled vegetable industry. We grow and process a group of vegetable crops, including cucumbers, peppers, carrots, onions, garlic, cauliflower, cabbage (Sauerkraut) and Brussels sprouts, which are referred to as 'minor' crops. None of these crops is in any "commodity program" and as such, do not rely upon taxpayer subsidies. However, **current farm value for just cucumbers, onions and garlic is \$2.3 billion with an estimated processed value of \$5.8 billion.** These crops represent important sources of income to farmers, and the processing operations are important employers in rural communities around the United States. Growers, processing plant employees and employees of suppliers to this industry reside in all 50 states. To realize its potential in the rapidly changing American economy, this industry will rely upon a growing stream of appropriately directed basic and applied research from four important research programs within the Agricultural Research Service.

#### Vegetable Crops Research Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin

The USDA/ARS Vegetable Crops Research Lab at the University of Wisconsin is the only USDA research unit dedicated to the genetic improvement of cucumbers, carrots, onions and garlic. Three scientists in this unit account for approximately half of the total U.S. public breeding and genetics research on these crops. Their past efforts have yielded cucumber, carrot and onion cultivars and breeding stocks that are widely used by the U.S. vegetable industry (i.e., growers, processors, and seed companies). These varieties account for over half of the farm yield produced by these crops today. All U.S. seed companies rely upon this program for developing new varieties, because ARS programs seek to introduce economically important traits (e.g., virus and nematode resistance) not available in commercial varieties using long-term high risk research efforts. The U.S. vegetable seed industry develops new varieties of cucumbers, carrots, onions, and garlic and over twenty other vegetables used by thousands of vegetable growers. **The U.S. vegetable seed, grower, and processing industry, relies**

upon the USDA/ARS Vegetable Crops Research Lab for unique genetic stocks to improve varieties in the same way the U.S. health care and pharmaceutical industries depend on fundamental research from the National Institutes of Health. Their innovations meet long-term needs and bring innovations in these crops for the U.S. and export markets, for which the U.S. has successfully competed. Past accomplishments by this USDA group have been cornerstones for the U.S. vegetable industry that have resulted in increased profitability, and improved product nutrition and quality.

Both consumers and the vegetable production and processing industry would like to see fewer pesticides applied to food and into the environment in a cost-effective manner. **Scientists in this unit have developed genetic resistance for many major vegetable diseases that are perhaps the most important threat to sustained production of a marketable crop for all vegetables.** Genetic resistance assures sustainable crop production for growers and reduces pesticide residues in our food and environment. Value of this genetic resistance developed by the vegetable crops unit is estimated at \$670 million per year in increased crop production, not to mention environmental benefits due to reduction in pesticide use. New research in Madison has resulted in cucumbers with improved disease resistance, pickling quality and suitability for machine harvesting. New sources of genetic resistance to viral and fungal diseases, environmental stress resistance like heat and cold, and higher yield have recently been mapped on cucumber chromosomes to provide a ready tool for our seed industry to significantly accelerate the development of resistant cultivars for U.S. growers. Nematodes in the soil deform carrot roots to reduce yield from 10% to over 70% in major production areas. A new genetic resistance to nematode attack was found to almost completely protect the carrot crop from one major nematode. This group improved both consumer quality and processing quality of vegetables with a resulting increase in production efficiency and consumer appeal. Baby carrots were founded on germplasm developed in Madison, Wisconsin. Carrots provide approximately 30% of the U.S. dietary vitamin A. **New carrots have been developed with tripled nutritional value, and nutrient-rich cucumbers have been developed with increased levels of provitamin A.** Using new biotechnological methods, a system for rapidly and simply identifying seed production ability in onions has been developed that reduces the breeding process up to 6 years! A genetic map of onion flavor and nutrition will be used to develop onions that are more appealing and healthy for consumers.

There are still serious vegetable production problems which need attention. For example, losses of cucumbers, onions, and carrots in the field due to **attack by pathogens and pests remains high, nutritional quality needs to be significantly improved and U.S. production value and export markets could certainly be enhanced.** Genetic improvement of all the attributes of these valuable crops are at hand through the unique USDA lines and populations (i.e., germplasm) that are available and the new biotechnological methodologies that are being developed by the group. The achievement of these goals will involve the utilization of a wide range of biological diversity available in the germplasm collections for these crops. **Classical plant breeding methods combined with bio-technological tools such as DNA marker-assisted selection and genome maps of cucumber, carrot and onion** will be used to implement these genetic improvements. With this, new high-value vegetable products based upon genetic improvements developed by our USDA laboratories can offer vegetable processors and growers expanded economic opportunities for U.S. and export markets.

### **U.S. Food Fermentation Laboratory, Raleigh, North Carolina**

The USDA/ARS Food Fermentation Laboratory in Raleigh, NC is the major public laboratory that this industry looks to as a source for new scientific information on the safety of our products and development of new processing technologies related to fermented and acidified vegetables. Over the years, this laboratory has been a source for innovations which have helped this industry remain competitive in the current global trade environment. We expect the research done in this laboratory to lead to new processing and product ideas that will increase the economic value of this industry and provide consumers with safe, high quality, healthful vegetable products.

We seek additional funding to support two new research initiatives for this laboratory that have substantial economic potential for our industry and health benefits for the American public. **These are: (1) New approaches for pasteurization and application of microwave heat processing to acidified foods to achieve major improvements in the efficiency of energy utilization and reduction in water use while assuring safety and quality of products that require thermal processing; (2) development of techniques to deliver living pro-biotic microorganisms to consumers in fermented or acidified vegetable products.**

Nearly all pickled vegetables in the aisles of your supermarket are heated (pasteurized) so they are shelf stable at room temperature. Current steam and water bath pasteurizer technologies, which were developed in the 1940s and 50s, have been very successful in that there has never been an outbreak of illness caused by commercially processed fermented or acidified vegetables. These older processing technologies are not very efficient in the use of energy or water resources, however. Our recent experience with soaring energy prices makes it clear that major improvements in the ways we heat process our products are required. There are three promising approaches that could benefit the broad range of products and sizes of companies that constitute the membership of PPI. First, is to develop practical ways to preheat and pack vegetables to reduce or even eliminate the residence time required in current pasteurizers. Secondly, is to adapt newer thermal processing technologies, particularly microwave heating, to our products. Thirdly, is to modify containers and product ingredients such

that less heat and associated water use is required to assure killing of pathogenic bacteria and other spoilage microorganisms. Modifications of processes require strong scientific justification to assure ourselves, FDA, and the public that safety and quality will be maintained. In concert with any new processing technologies adequate process verification methods to assure process control and acceptance of our processes by FDA must be developed and validated. **The objective will be to develop and transfer to the fermented and acidified vegetable industry new, scientifically validated energy efficient processing technologies that will assure the safety and quality of the products we make.**

Most of what we hear about bacteria in foods concerns the pathogens that cause disease. However, lactic acid bacteria are intentionally grown in fermented foods because they are needed to give foods like sauerkraut, yoghurt, cheeses, and fermented salami the characteristic flavors and textures that we desire. There is a growing body of research to indicate that certain living lactic acid bacteria are 'pro-biotic' in that they improve human health by remaining in the intestinal tract after they are consumed. Fermented or acidified vegetables may be a good way to deliver such pro-biotic bacteria to consumers. **The objective will be to identify pro-biotic lactic acid bacteria that can survive in high numbers in selected vegetable products and investigate the potential for using vegetables as healthful delivery vehicles for pro-biotic organisms.**

### **Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit, East Lansing, Michigan**

The USDA/ARS East Lansing, Michigan location has the only federally funded research program that is devoted to developing new and/or improved engineering technologies and systems for assessing and assuring quality and marketability of tree fruit and pickling vegetables. The research program provides a vital source for technological innovation in sensing for quality evaluation of horticultural crops. The research program currently has a full-time research agricultural engineer whose research is primarily focused on tree fruits. Over the past few years, the Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit has developed a number of innovative engineering technologies for rapid, nondestructive measurement and inspection of postharvest quality of tree fruits and vegetables, including a novel spectral scattering technology for assessing the texture and flavor of fruits. The technology may be used for inspecting a variety of vegetable crops. **Recently, the location developed a new generation inspection system based on advanced hyperspectral imaging technology for automated detection of quality/defects of pickling cucumbers.**

Currently the location's cucumber postharvest engineering research is grossly underfunded and thus unable to carry out research on postharvest sorting, grading and handling of pickling vegetable products at full scale. With the increasing demands from consumers and the government's regulatory agencies for high quality and safe food products, it is crucial that an effective quality inspection and assurance system be implemented throughout the handling steps between harvest and retail. While automated inspection systems are being used in modern pickle processing facilities for inspecting, sorting and grading pickling products based on external quality characteristics, they still cannot fully meet increasing industry needs for more accurate and efficient inspection and monitoring of product quality. Hence, long-term research is needed on improving existing technologies and developing a new generation of sensors and automated inspection methods that can provide more efficient and effective measurement and monitoring of pickling vegetables. Labor required for postharvest handling and processing operations represents a significant portion of the total production cost. Development and adoption of new and/or improved automated inspection technologies will reduce industry reliance on seasonal, unskilled workers and achieve cost savings in postharvest handling and processing of pickling products. Moreover, new inspection technologies will enable the pickling industry to deliver better quality, more consistent and safer products to the marketplace.

### **U.S. Vegetable Laboratory Charleston South Carolina**

The research program at the USDA/ARS Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina, addresses national problems in vegetable crop production and protection with emphasis on the southeastern United States. **This research program is internationally recognized for its accomplishments, which have resulted in development of over 150 new vegetable varieties and lines along with the development of many new and improved disease and pest management practices.** This laboratory's program currently addresses 14 vegetable crops including those in the cabbage, cucumber, and pepper families, which are of major importance to the pickling industry. The mission of the laboratory is to a) develop disease and pest resistant vegetable crops and b) develop new, reliable, environmentally sound disease and pest management programs that do not rely on conventional pesticides.

Continued expansion of the Charleston program is crucial. Vegetable growers depend heavily on synthetic pesticides to control diseases and pests. Cancellation and/or restrictions on the use of many effective pesticide compounds are having a considerable influence on the future of vegetable crop production. Without the use of certain pesticides, growers will experience crop failures unless other effective, non-pesticide control methods are found quickly. The research on improved, more efficient and environmentally compatible vegetable production practices and genetically resistant varieties at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory continues to be absolutely essential. This gives U.S. growers the competitive edge they must have to sustain and keep this important industry and allow it to expand in the face of increasing foreign competition. Current cucumber varieties are highly susceptible to a new strain of the downy mildew pathogen; this new strain has caused

considerable damage to commercial cucumber production in some South Atlantic and Midwestern states during the past four years, and a new plant pathologist position needs to be established to address this critical situation.

## FUNDING NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

It remains critical that funding continues the forward momentum in pickled vegetable research that the U.S. now enjoys and to increase funding levels as warranted by planned expansion of research projects to maintain U.S. competitiveness. We also understand that discretionary funds are now used to meet the rising fixed costs associated with each location. Additional funding is needed at the Wisconsin and South Carolina programs for genetic improvement of crops essential to the pickled vegetable industry, and at North Carolina and Michigan for development of environmentally-sensitive technologies for improved safety and value to the consumer of our products. The fermented and acidified vegetable industry is receptive to capital investment in order to remain competitive, but only if that investment is economically justified. The research needed to justify such capital investment involves both short term (6-24 months) and long term (2-10 years or longer) commitments. **The diverse array of companies making up our industry assumes responsibility for short-term research, but the expense and risk are too great for individual companies to commit to the long-term research needed to insure future competitiveness.** The pickled vegetable industry currently supports research efforts at Wisconsin and North Carolina and anticipates funding work at South Carolina and Michigan as scientists are put in place. Donations of supplies and processing equipment from processors and affiliated industries have continued for many years.

### U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, South Carolina

The newly constructed laboratory-office building at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory was occupied in April 2003. Design of the accompanying greenhouse and head house was completed in July 2004. Construction of the head house was completed in 2006, and construction of the initial phase of the greenhouse complex was completed in early fall 2008. In FY 2005, \$2.976 million was appropriated for construction of greenhouses. In FY 2006, an additional \$1.980 million was appropriated for construction of greenhouses, but an estimated \$9.2 million is still needed to design and construct the final phases of the planned greenhouse complex. This new facility replaces and consolidates outmoded laboratory areas that were housed in 1930s-era buildings and trailers. Completion of the total research complex will provide for the effective continuation and expansion of the excellent vegetable crops research program that has been conducted by the Agricultural Research Service at Charleston for over 70 years.

**New funds are needed to establish a plant pathology position to address cucumber diseases,** especially the disease caused by a new strain of the downy mildew pathogen that has caused extensive damage to cucumber production in some South Atlantic and Midwestern states during the past two years. The plant pathologist is needed to characterize pathogen strains using molecular methodologies and to develop new management approaches and resistant cucumber lines. This new plant pathologist position will greatly contribute to the accomplishment of research that will provide for the effective protection of cucumbers from disease without the use of conventional pesticides. This position will require a funding level of \$500,000 for its establishment.

<u>Construction</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
Greenhouse design	Needed	\$700,000
Greenhouse construction	Needed	8,500,000
<b>DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDS NEEDED</b>		<b>\$9,200,000</b>
<u>New Scientific Staff Needed</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
Plant Pathologist (cucumber disease)	Needed	\$500,000
<b>NEW FUNDS NEEDED</b>		<b>\$500,000</b>

### Food Fermentation Laboratory, Raleigh, North Carolina

The current funding for the laboratory is \$1,274,000. To carry out the new research initiatives to reduce the energy and water use required to produce safe, high quality products and to develop systems to deliver pro-biotic lactic acid bacteria in acidified and fermented vegetable products, we request **additional support for the Food Fermentation Laboratory of \$300,000 in FY 2010.** This will provide support for Post-Doctoral or Pre-Doctoral research associates along with necessary equipment and supplies to develop these new areas of research.

<u>Scientific Staff</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
Microbiologist	Active	\$318,500
Chemist	Active	318,500
Food Technologist/Biochemist	Active	318,500
Microbial Physiologist	Active	318,500
FY 2010 Post-doctoral and Predoctoral Research Associate	Needed	300,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</b>		<b>\$1,574,000</b>
Expected Presidential Budget (FY 2010)		<u>\$1,274,000</u>
<b>NEW FUNDS NEEDED</b>		<b>\$300,000</b>

#### **Vegetable Crops Research Laboratory Unit, Madison, Wisconsin**

Current base funding for three scientists is \$867,037, of which \$200,000 was added in FY 2002. Emerging diseases, such as downy mildew of cucumber, threaten production of the crop in all production areas. Therefore, we request an additional \$292,963 to fully fund the scientists and support staff in FY 2010, including graduate students and post-doctorates for new research searching for genetic resistance to emerging diseases.

<u>Scientific Staff in Place</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
Geneticist	Active	\$320,000
Geneticist	Active	320,000
Geneticist	Active	320,000
FY 2010 Post-doctoral or Predoctoral Research Associates	Needed	<u>200,000</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</b>		<b>\$ 1,160,000</b>
Expected Presidential Budget (FY 2010)		<u>\$867,037</u>
<b>NEW FUNDS NEEDED</b>		<b>\$292,963</b>

#### **Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit, East Lansing, Michigan**

Current base funding for the location is \$200,000, which is far short of the funding level needed to carry out research on inspection, sorting and grading of pickling cucumbers and other vegetable crops to assure the processing and keeping quality of pickled products. An increase of \$200,000 in the current base funding level would be needed to fund the research engineer position.

<u>Scientific Staff in Place</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
Postdoctoral Research Associate	Active	\$200,000
Research Engineer	Needed	<u>200,000</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</b>		<b>\$400,000</b>
Current Funding		<u>200,000</u>
<b>NEW FUNDS NEEDED</b>		<b>\$200,000</b>

Thank you for your consideration and expression of support for the USDA/ARS.





**Testimony for the Record**

**to**

**Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development  
Food and Drug Administration  
And Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
2362A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515**

**from**

**National CSFP Association (NCSFPA)  
Terri Drefke, President**

**April 30, 2009**

## **National CSFP Association**

Website: [www.csfpcentral.org](http://www.csfpcentral.org)

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro:

Madame Chairman and Subcommittee members, thank you for this opportunity to present information regarding the USDA/FNS Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

The National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association (NCSFPA) requests the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee fund CSFP for FY10 at \$203 million and include language directing the Department to utilize all available resources to supplement the CSFP food package and meet the rising demand for nutritional assistance among our vulnerable senior population.

This first effort at national food assistance began in 1969 with monthly packages designed to supplement protein, calcium, iron, vitamins A and C for low-income mothers and children (preceding WIC); nutrients shown to be lacking in the diets of low-income households. Low-income seniors added in 1983 now comprise 93% of all CSFP participants.

CSFP is a unique program that brings together federal and state agencies, along with public and private entities. The USDA purchases specific nutrient-rich foods at wholesale prices. State agencies providing oversight, contract with community and faith based organizations to warehouse and distribute food, certify eligibility and educate participants. The local organizations build broad collaboration among non-profits, health units, and area agencies on aging for simple, fast access to the supplemental foods (canned fruits and vegetables, juices, meats, fish, peanut butter, cereals, grain products, cheese and dairy products from American farmers) and nutrition education to improve their health and quality of life. This partnership reaches even homebound seniors in both rural and urban settings with vital nutrition and remains an important "market" for commodities supported under various farm programs

In FY08, the CSFP provided services through 150 non-profit community and faith-based organizations at 1,800 sites located in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations (Red Lake, Minnesota and Oglala Sioux, South Dakota). On behalf of those organizations NCSFPA would like to express our gratitude for the increased FY09 funding. However, we are disappointed that the increase in funding didn't result in more seniors receiving food.

**CSFP's 40 years of service is a testimony to the power of community partnerships of faith-**

**based organizations, farmers, private industry and government agencies. The CSFP offers a unique combination of advantages unparalleled by any other food assistance program:**

- ☉ The CSFP specifically targets our nation's most nutritionally vulnerable populations: young children and low-income seniors - many of whom will not qualify for other nutrition assistance programs.
- ☉ The CSFP provides a monthly selection of food packages tailored to specific nutritional needs. Eligible participants are guaranteed [by law] a certain level of nutritional assistance, nutrition education, and food preparation guidance each month.
- ☉ The CSFP purchases foods at wholesale prices, directly supporting American farmers. The average food package cost is estimated at \$23.01 and the retail value is \$50.00-\$60.00.
- ☉ The CSFP involves the entire community. Thousands of volunteers and private companies donate money, equipment, and most importantly time and effort to deliver food to needy and homebound seniors. These volunteers not only bring food but companionship and other assistance to seniors who might have limited support systems. (See Attachment 1)

In a recent CSFP survey, more than half of seniors living alone reported an income of less than \$750 per month. One-half of respondents from two-person households reported an income under \$1,000 per month. 25% were enrolled in SNAP and 50% said they ran out of food during the month. 70% of senior respondents said they choose between medicine and food.

**The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee has consistently supported CSFP, acknowledging it as a cost-effective way of providing nutritious supplemental foods. Last year this subcommittee and all of Congress provided funding for CSFP in direct opposition to its proposed elimination. Your support is again needed to provide adequate resources for the 473,473 mothers, children and seniors current participants; 37,500 low-income participants waiting in six new states, and 110,374 seniors waiting in current states for this vital nutrition program.**

CSFP and other nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), are only supplemental programs by design. Together they cover a shortfall that many seniors face each month. These programs must have support to meet the increasing need as part of the "safety net".

*"The Managers fully support continued operation of this program and recognize the need for a substantial expansion of CSFP..... the Managers encourage the Secretary to approve all remaining states for expansion and to expand caseload in all participating states."* Joint Statement of Managers, H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

*"CSFP has charms worth considering in designing human service programs..... the program's trademarks were its simplicity and accessibility..... CSFP in particular represents a guaranteed source of high quality food, delivered in a balanced package."* The Role of CSFP in Nutritional Assistance to Mothers, Infants, Children and Seniors. The Urban Institute, August 2008.

The National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association requests the following:

To continue serving the <b>473,473</b> needy seniors (93% of participants), women, infants and children (7% of participants) currently enrolled in CSFP.	<i>\$164 Million</i>
To meet USDA's commodity procurement expenses.	<i>\$0.8 Million</i>
To respond to the needs of <b>37,500</b> eligible seniors in the 6 states with USDA approved plans: Arkansas (5,000), Delaware (2,500), Oklahoma (5,000), New Jersey (5,000), Utah (3,000) and Georgia (10,000).	<i>\$9.3 Million</i>
To meet the increased demand/need of an additional <b>110,374</b> at risk seniors in 32 states per requests turned into USDA by current CSF programs nationwide	<i>\$28.6 Million</i>
<b>Appropriation needed to maximize this program's effectiveness in serving 621,347 seniors, women, infants and young children challenged by hunger and malnutrition in our nation</b>	<b>\$203 Million</b>

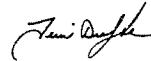
A 1997 report by the National Policy and Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging at Florida International University, Miami-- Elder Insecurities: Poverty, Hunger, and Malnutrition indicated that malnourished elderly patients experience 2 to 20 times more medical complications, have up to 100% longer hospital stays, and incur hospital costs \$2,000 to \$10,000 higher per stay. Proper nutrition promotes health, treats chronic disease, decreases hospital length of stay and saves health care dollars. America is aging. CSFP must be an integral part of Senior Nutrition Policy and plans to support the productivity, health, independence and quality of life for America's seniors, many of whom now need to continue working at least part-time beyond retirement age to afford basics.

**The National CSFP Association recommends the following:**

- Support and expand the program in those states that have a need and interest in the CSFP, including the 6 states that already have USDA-approved plans to operate CSFP (Arkansas, Delaware, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Utah and Georgia) and states demonstrating a willingness to expand current CSFP services to meet rising demand;
- Provide language encouraging the US Department of Agriculture to utilize all available resources to meet the rising demand for this nutritional support.

The CSFP is committed grassroots operators and dedicated volunteers with a mission to provide quality nutrition assistance economically, efficiently, and responsibly always keeping the needs and dignity of our participants first. We commend the Food Distribution Division of Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture for their continued innovations to strengthen the quality of the food package and streamline administration.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Terri Drefke  
National CSFP Association President

FY08 National CSFP Association Administrative Expense/Value Survey

Programs	USDA Reimbursed Cash	Not Reimbursed by USDA Cash	CSFP Expenditures Cash	Goods & Services donated to agency Value	Volunteer Labor Hours Value	Annual Total Program Value	% Paid by USDA	Extra Goods donated to CSFP participants
New Hampshire	\$ 461,361	\$ 0	\$ 461,361	\$ 0	\$ 61,121	\$ 522,482	88%	\$ 16,097
New York	\$ 1,947,032	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 4,447,032	\$ 20,700	\$ 3,984	\$ 4,471,716	44%	\$ 6,500
Vermont	\$ 233,132	\$ 0	\$ 233,132	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 233,132	100%	\$ 0
Washington DC	\$ 434,945	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 2,034,945	\$ 800,000	\$ 173,632	\$ 3,008,577	14%	\$ 0
Pennsylvania	\$ 912,209	\$ 18,637	\$ 930,846	\$ 32,169	\$ 48,259	\$ 1,011,274	90%	\$ 100,000
Kentucky	\$ 980,911	\$ 64,645	\$ 1,045,556	\$ 0	\$ 24,577	\$ 1,070,133	92%	\$ 624,093
Mississippi	\$ 437,969	\$ 0	\$ 437,969	\$ 30,520	\$ 199,906	\$ 668,395	66%	\$ 7,104
North Carolina	\$ 75,126	\$ 0	\$ 75,126	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 75,126	100%	\$ 0
South Carolina	\$ 232,192	\$ 0	\$ 232,192	\$ 0	\$ 1,342	\$ 233,534	99%	\$ 22,500
*Tennessee	\$ 840,812	\$ 0	\$ 840,812	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 840,812	100%	\$ 0
Illinois	\$ 869,405	\$ 0	\$ 869,405	\$ 0	\$ 25,643	\$ 895,048	97%	\$ 0
Indiana	\$ 269,732	\$ 25,000	\$ 294,732	\$ 25,000	\$ 68,502	\$ 388,234	69%	\$ 32,189
Michigan	\$ 4,861,625	\$ 314,317	\$ 5,175,942	\$ 310,168	\$ 1,722,543	\$ 7,208,653	67%	\$ 4,637,316
Minnesota	\$ 881,829	\$ 319,848	\$ 1,201,677	\$ 2,213	\$ 449,753	\$ 1,653,623	53%	\$ 864,844
*Red Lake, MN	\$ 6,204	\$ 0	\$ 6,204	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,204	100%	\$ 0
Ohio	\$ 978,890	\$ 198,896	\$ 1,177,786	\$ 65,770	\$ 328,264	\$ 1,571,850	62%	\$ 85,774
Wisconsin	\$ 316,547	\$ 50,000	\$ 366,547	\$ 0	\$ 275,406	\$ 641,953	49%	\$ 54,610
Louisiana	\$ 4,089,578	\$ 0	\$ 4,089,578	\$ 330,000	\$ 1,104,420	\$ 5,523,998	74%	\$ 0
New Mexico	\$ 1,032,128	\$ 129,911	\$ 1,162,039	\$ 248,791	\$ 233,955	\$ 1,644,785	63%	\$ 479,843
Texas	\$ 997,895	\$ 157,260	\$ 1,155,095	\$ 0	\$ 297,774	\$ 1,452,869	69%	\$ 0
Colorado	\$ 1,104,198	\$ 67,533	\$ 1,171,731	\$ 57,449	\$ 119,319	\$ 1,348,499	82%	\$ 1,343,961
Iowa	\$ 216,086	\$ 353,367	\$ 569,453	\$ 0	\$ 13,463	\$ 582,916	37%	\$ 0
Kansas	\$ 328,548	\$ 7,200	\$ 335,748	\$ 10,000	\$ 83,642	\$ 429,390	77%	\$ 89,519
Missouri	\$ 583,040	\$ 0	\$ 583,040	\$ 0	\$ 16,608	\$ 599,648	97%	\$ 0
*Montana	\$ 425,091	\$ 0	\$ 425,091	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 425,091	100%	\$ 0
Nebraska	\$ 820,898	\$ 75,529	\$ 896,427	\$ 40,470	\$ 301,447	\$ 1,238,344	66%	\$ 79,479
*North Dakota	\$ 175,413	\$ 0	\$ 175,413	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 175,413	100%	\$ 0
South Dakota	\$ 176,228	\$ 8,416	\$ 184,644	\$ 0	\$ 26,464	\$ 211,108	83%	\$ 0
*Ogala Sioux, SD	\$ 403,360	\$ 0	\$ 403,360	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 403,360	100%	\$ 0
Alaska	\$ 134,803	\$ 63,000	\$ 197,803	\$ 1,013,000	\$ 104,235	\$ 1,317,038	10%	\$ 0
Arizona	\$ 940,739	\$ 252,000	\$ 1,192,739	\$ 2,000	\$ 184,312	\$ 1,379,051	68%	\$ 2,000,000
California	\$ 3,373,339	\$ 580,027	\$ 3,953,366	\$ 35,400	\$ 1,248,232	\$ 5,236,998	64%	\$ 379,140
Nevada	\$ 371,461	\$ 174,278	\$ 545,739	\$ 0	\$ 24,960	\$ 570,699	65%	\$ 179,400
Oregon	\$ 84,166	\$ 96,573	\$ 180,739	\$ 4,436	\$ 44,317	\$ 229,492	37%	\$ 5,200
Washington	\$ 228,871	\$ 7,500	\$ 236,371	\$ 208,000	\$ 90,076	\$ 534,447	43%	\$ 0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,862,763</b>	<b>\$ 7,063,877</b>	<b>\$ 36,926,640</b>	<b>\$ 3,338,086</b>	<b>\$ 7,276,137</b>	<b>\$ 47,440,863</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>\$ 11,306,319</b>

\*no information provided Feb. 24, 09 Client Extras incl.: flu shots, fresh produce, clothing, books, toys, health screenings, personal care items, energy efficient items, dairy, baked goods/eyevans, etc.

Testimony Submitted

by

Dr. Raymond Bye, Jr.

Director of Federal Relations

The Florida State University

Before the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,

Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations

US House of Representatives

April 24, 2009

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Florida State University is requesting **\$5,000,000** in FY 2010 for the **Risk Reduction for Agricultural Crops Program from the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service/Research and Education Activities/Federal Admin. Account**

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Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the Members of the Subcommittee for this opportunity to present testimony before this Committee. I would like to take a moment to briefly acquaint you with Florida State University.

Located in Tallahassee, Florida's capitol, FSU is a comprehensive Research university with a rapidly growing research base. The University serves as a center for advanced graduate and professional studies, exemplary research, and top-quality undergraduate programs. Faculty members at FSU maintain a strong commitment to quality in teaching, to performance of research and creative activities, and have a strong commitment to public service. Among the current or former faculty are numerous recipients of national and international honors including Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and several members of the National Academy of Sciences. Our scientists and engineers do excellent research, have strong interdisciplinary interests, and often work closely with industrial partners in the commercialization of the results of their research. Florida State University had over \$200 million this past year in sponsored research awards.

Florida State University attracts students from every state in the nation and more than 100 foreign countries. The University is committed to high admission standards that ensure quality in its student body, which currently includes National Merit and National Achievement Scholars, Rhodes and Goldwater Scholars, as well as students with superior creative talent. Since 2005, FSU students have won more than 30 nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships including 3 Rhodes Scholarships, 2 Truman Scholarships, Goldwater, and 18 Fulbright Fellowships.

At Florida State University, we are very proud of our successes as well as our emerging reputation as one of the nation's top public research universities.

Mr. Chairman, let me summarize our primary interest today. The current drought in the southeastern USA, the worst in recent history, has had significant impacts on the water resources. It has reemphasized the vulnerability of the citizens to climate variability and climate extremes. The Federal Government can reduce these risks by using modern technologies such as climate models, which can predict future climate, and decision support tools to help mitigate some of these uncertainties and provide adaptation strategies for the agricultural and environmental sectors. The Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC), which includes Florida State University, the University of Florida, the University of Miami, the University of Georgia, Auburn University, the University of Alabama at Huntsville, North Carolina State University and Clemson University, has been at the forefront of research and extension for the application of climate predictions to risk reduction for agriculture and natural resources. With support from USDA and NOAA, the SECC has developed new methods to predict the consequences of climate variability for agricultural crops, forests, and water resources in the southeastern USA. In recent real-life tests, these methods have been applied to the problems that farmers raising specialty crops face arising from variable rainfall, temperature, and wild fires. This program has strong support of extension in all states. The new tasks that can be accomplished with the funds requested are to develop improved methods to forecast droughts and other extreme climate events. These forecasts will be incorporated into decision support systems to help agricultural, forest, and natural resource managers to reduce risks of losses and environmental damage. The SECC will develop new partnerships and methods for incorporating climate forecasts into agricultural and water policy decisions and will continue the development of a decision support system to provide seasonal and multi-year projections to water resources managers, especially for agricultural water use. Lastly, the SECC will initiate research to determine risks and appropriate agricultural responses to longer term trends in climate. We are requesting \$5,000,000 for this project.

Mr. Chairman, this project will have a great impact on our country and I appreciate your consideration.



**American  
Public Power  
Association**

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**Statement  
Of the  
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION  
Submitted to the  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND  
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
April 17, 2009**

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 municipal and other state and locally owned utilities throughout the United States (all but Hawaii). Collectively, public power utilities deliver electricity to one of every seven electricity consumers (approximately 45 million people), serving some of the nation's largest cities. However, the vast majority of APPA's members serve communities with populations of 10,000 people or less.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement outlining our FY 2010 funding priorities within the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

**Department of Agriculture: Rural Utility Service Rural Broadband Grants and Loans**

APPA was pleased with the funding level of \$2.5 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for "grants, loans and loan guarantees, for broadband infrastructure in any area of the United States." APPA urges the Subcommittee to fully fund the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) rural grant and loan programs at or above the stimulus levels.

APPA believes it is important to provide incentives for the deployment of broadband to rural communities, many of which lack broadband service. Increasingly, access to advanced communications services is considered vital to a community's economic and educational development. In addition, the availability of broadband service enables rural communities to provide advanced health care through telemedicine and to promote regional competitiveness and other benefits that contribute to a high quality of life. Approximately one-fourth of APPA's members are currently providing broadband service in their communities. Several APPA members are planning to apply for RUS broadband loans to help them finance their broadband projects.



**Department of Agriculture: Title IX Programs**

APPA supports full funding of programs authorized in Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill for energy efficiency, renewable energy and biofuels. APPA requests the full FY2010 funding level of \$60 million for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), \$5 million for the Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency program, and \$5 million for the Community Wood Energy Program.

**Written Statement**

Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

May 1, 2009

Gerald R. Iwan Ph.D., Executive Director  
National Environmental Services Center  
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. We request \$1.5 million for the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC), a program that provides water infrastructure services for small communities and rural areas nationwide.

Introduction

My name is Gerald Iwan, and I represent the National Environmental Services Center (NESC), located at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Previously, I was for 20 years the drinking water administrator for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, during which time I oversaw the implementation of all regulatory aspects of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). In my present assignment with NESC, I manage a unique program with nationally recognized expertise in drinking water, wastewater, and small community infrastructure security and emergency preparedness. NESC provides access to an in-depth repository of information and specialized technical assistance and training services.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges

41,784 small community water systems in the United States provide drinking water to communities of 3,300 people or less (EPA, 2009). These systems are mandated to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in providing reliable and safe water services to their citizens. They perform with limited financial, human and equipment resources and account for the majority of SDWA violations. The USDA's Water and Wastewater Grants and Loans program may be the only option small systems have to obtain funding to address

necessary system improvements. However, reliable technical assistance provided by organizations such as NESC is also necessary to help them overcome the many challenges they and their operators face in complying with local, state and federal regulations.

Recognizing these challenges, the USDA funds "Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training (RWTA) Programs" through authorization in the *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act* (the Farm Bill). The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse is one RWTA program. We have been funded by USDA for 18 years to help communities and rural areas identify and evaluate solutions to water or wastewater problems, improve facility operation and maintenance, and prepare funding applications for water or wastewater treatment facility construction projects.

#### Deliverables Provided by the NDWC

The NDWC serves local officials, utility managers, system operators and RWTA professionals in small and rural communities. Telephone callers obtain toll-free drinking water technical assistance from our staff of certified operators, engineers, and scientists. Our quarterly publication "On Tap," a magazine for small drinking water systems, provides information about water treatment, financing, and management options and has 26,000 subscribers. A comprehensive Web site [www.NESC.wvu.edu](http://www.NESC.wvu.edu) and databases with thousands of entries provide round the clock access to contemporary information for small water systems. Training sessions customized for small and rural areas, teleconferences, and more than 600 free and low-cost educational products give people the instruction and tools they need to address their most pressing drinking water issues.

We anticipate an even greater need for NDWC services in 2010 due to the current recession and the federal effort to stimulate the economy through infrastructure projects. Stimulus funding in the water sector has been so far directed to construction, with nothing directed yet to support water and wastewater facility operation and maintenance. Small and rural communities will need increased support from RWTA providers to plan for and protect their current and future utility assets. The NDWC has accordingly expanded its scope of deliverables for FY 2010 to provide additional services. It is imperative that the NDWC continues to receive funding from the Technical Assistance and Training Grants (TAT) account to assist small community drinking water systems.

Request

We request a congressionall y directed appropriation of \$1.5 million to continue and increase the NDWC program services through the Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grants account. Thank you for considering our request.

Contact Information

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To: House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

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From: Jay Alexander, Founder of the grassroots citizens action group "We Can Take It!"

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Website: [www.wecantakeit.org](http://www.wecantakeit.org)

Re: Written Public testimony for the Reactivation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on Native American Lands, Public (Federal and Military Reservation) Lands.

We respectfully request amount of \$500 million dollars to be appropriated over a period of ten years for the reactivation of the CCC on sovereign Native American Lands. Monies would be distributed to the Native Tribes with oversight provided by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture., to fund and carry out shovel ready work projects similar to the template of FDR's CCC under a separate Indian Division for Native American Lands. The CCC would enable enrollement for all unemployed First American adults aged from 17 to 35. They would be able to work from their homes on infrastructure and ecosystem work projects on their sovereign tribal and adjacent lands. The CCC program worked for our first Americans in the past and can work for the entire nation again.

We also request the appropriation up to of 5 billion a year or to 50 billion over next decade (to include the allotment for the request above for our First Americans) for employment recovery for the rest of our Nation's fit young Americans and Veterans. (The estimated cost of the program is based on the 1942 dollar.) The program would again be conducted by the the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, the US Army (Defense) and the Department of Veterans Affairs and Labor, to avoid the creation of another government bureaucracy. This program would provide shovel ready projects and put up to a half a million enrollee work boots on the ground every year.

Shovel Ready projects as in FDR's time, work projects in general include forest, park, watershed, erosion control and grazing management. New projects would involve vocational training in solar and wind power, training and work for hazardous waste removal and projects involving phytoremediation, organic farming, new wildlife habitat and new areas for recreation.

The requested appropriation would include the purchase of acreage adjacent to government owned lands for the purpose of creating new green space for wildlife habitat and recreation.

Seventy-six years ago, the 73rd Congress and President Roosevelt faced a similar situation banking crisis. FDR was, personally interested in preserving the environment and providing temporary employment for the nation's youth and veterans. Legislation to establish the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps was also introduced March 21, 1933 in a message to Congress he wrote...

"It is essential to our recovery program . . . the first of these measures . . . can and should be immediately enacted. I propose to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects . . . but also as a means of creating future national wealth. . . More important, however, than the material gains from their labors will be the

moral and spiritual value of such work."

The president himself shepherded the legislation through both houses. It was signed into law 10 days later. Over the next nine years, almost 4 million young men were put to work reclaiming the country's natural resources. The men lived in government camps, food and clothing were provided, the Army supervised the camps, and the men were required to send 80 percent of their pay of \$30 back to their families. (\$30 in 1933 is equivalent to \$451.48 in 2007.) It became the largest mobilization of civilian workers and the most popular government program in American History. In 1942, the 77th congress cut the CCC funding, but the program was never abolished by the 77th Congress and it only needs reactivated and the dust removed from the books.

The current rise in unemployment and poverty among unskilled young adults, war veterans (25% of the entire US homeless population today is our Veterans) and Native Americans (many reservations have as much as 50% unemployment). Global warming and our environmental need our stewardship. Our infrastructure is now rated at a D grade by the American Society of Engineers.

The time is right to reactivate the US Civilian Conservation Corps for our First Americans. It is by far the best "Shovel Ready" program to date to put thousands of work boots on the ground within a matter of weeks. This program is proven cost effective and would give the U.S. Taxpayer more 'Bang for the Buck!'

"We Can Take It!" urges the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to give serious consideration to remobilize this 'Shovel Ready' workforce to salvage First American Lands and to salvage the lives of many young Native American citizens and Native American Veterans, now in jeopardy. They would be given jobs in the CCC if they qualify from the state of Maine to the US Territory of American Samoa.

Similar federal, state, and local government work programs for Native Lands should be re-absorbed into the Civilian Conservation Corps to avoid waste in overlap, fraud and abuse and insure government accountability to the people of the United States.

This program would now be open to women and also offer individuals an alternative to military service. Those who fulfill their obligation would have access to the GI Bill. The military would have fit men and women to enter if they choose to further serve their country.

Dr Neil M. Maher, author and associate professor of history at Rutgers University, said, "Brazil has recently begun looking back to Franklin Roosevelt's CCC to help solve that country's economic and environmental problems. Plagued by high unemployment rates approaching ten percent, local, state, and federal governments in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and corporations have begun putting jobless Brazilians to work planting trees. The goal of Brazil's CCC-like program, which the Nature Conservancy helped initiate, is to plant one billion trees over the next ten years across the country's Atlantic Forest. Rather than funding the program solely by increasing taxes and federal spending, Brazil will rely on novel market mechanisms including the sale of sequestration vouchers on the international carbon market, obtained through the program's reforestation efforts, as well as the collection of water use fees in the reforested regions. Similar tree-planting programs reminiscent of FDR's CCC are also now operating in China along the Yangtze River and through Wangari Maathai's Greenbelt Movement in Kenya. Even war-torn Afghanistan has created its own "Afghan Conservation Corps. The United States needs to follow suit, and Barrack Obama's first 100 days in office is one place to start. Like Roosevelt, Obama should ask Congress to create a Civilian Conservation Corps, but with a twist. Along with planting trees, this new and improved Corps should put young Americans, both men and women, to work planting windmills across the former Dust Bowl, solar energy panels throughout the Sunbelt, and energy-efficient biofuels on farms in every corner of the country, all in an effort to reduce both unemployment and the production of greenhouse gasses that lead to global

warming. While Roosevelt funded the New Deal's CCC with federal dollars, public spending for Obama's new program could be greatly reduced through market mechanisms like those embraced by Brazil; by collecting carbon vouchers and water use fees from the new program's reforestation efforts, and by selling clean, green energy generated from new windmills, solar panels, and biofuels. The young men and women enrolling in this market-driven Corps would also benefit. Not only would they gain valuable training, skills, and experience in the expanding green economy, but they could also be encouraged to put their enrollment stipend towards a college education."

The US Civilian Conservation Corps over the years would enroll young men, women, and veterans. They will all gain strong civic, work and conservation ethics. They would also be trained and skilled in disaster relief and on call.. This program would be of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Contact us for additional information and we are available for any future hearings.

Thank you.

Jay Alexander

Founder of WE CAN TAKE IT

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BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES  
OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL

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Submitted: April 10, 2009



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BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES  
OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL

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My name is Justin Dagen. I am a potato farmer from Karlstad, Minnesota and current Vice President, Legislative/Government Affairs for the National Potato Council (NPC). On behalf of the NPC, we thank you for your attention to the needs of our potato growers.

The NPC is the only trade association representing commercial growers in 50 states. Our growers produce both seed potatoes and potatoes for consumption in a variety of forms. Annual production is estimated at 437,888,000 cwt. with a farm value of \$3.2 billion. Total value is substantially increased through processing. The potato crop clearly has a positive impact on the U.S. economy.

**AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES**

The National Potato Council (NPC) urges the Congress to continue to fund programs critical to potato growers and to oppose any attempts to eliminate and/or curtail various critical research and other projects. For example, interruptions in CSREES funded projects will result in significant disruption or cancellation of valuable breeding research and the loss of varieties resulting from years of previous research. Much of this potato research is conducted jointly using potato industry and university funding. Similarly, ARS potato research is critical to the potato industry.

**THE NPC'S FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**POTATO RESEARCH:**

*Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES)*

The NPC urges the Congress not to support any attempt to eliminate the CSREES Special Grant Program for potatoes. This program supports and fine-tunes important university research work that helps our growers remain competitive in today's domestic and world marketplace.

The NPC supports an appropriation of \$1,800,000 for the Special Potato Grant program for FY 2010. The Congress appropriated \$1,482,000 in FY 2006 and recommended the same amount in FY 2007. However, the program only received \$1,112,000 in FY 2008 which was further reduced by the across-the-board cut and \$1,037,000 in FY 2009. This has been a highly successful program, and the number of funding requests from various potato-producing regions is increasing.

The NPC also urges that the Congress include Committee report language as follows:

*"Potato research. — The Committee expects the Department to ensure that funds provided to CSREES for potato research are utilized for varietal development testing. Further, these funds are to be awarded after review by the Potato Industry Working Group."*

***Agricultural Research Service (ARS)***

The NPC urges that the Congress to continue the Congressional increases for research projects.

The Congress provided funds for a number of important ARS projects and, due to previous direction by the Congress, the ARS continues to work with the NPC on how overall research funds can best be utilized for grower priorities.

The NPC urges that \$3 million per site be provided for the construction and/or the expansion of nematode research facilities at Cornell University in New York and in Idaho. The Potato Cyst Nematode Laboratory (PCNL) at Cornell University is structurally deficient and may lose its Federal license to operate as a quarantine facility. Its demise would put New York agriculture and the United States potato industries at risk. Equally important is the risk to the Western United States from the Idaho and Alberta outbreaks. A coordinated National Program is critical if export markets are to be maintained and this quarantined pest is to be contained. The Western facility could be constructed on University of Idaho land where an existing nematologist is present and a core ARS presence already exists. If PCN expands into other states, the entire U.S. potato industry will be affected, not only from direct damage by the pest (up to 80% yield loss), but more importantly, by embargoes disrupting interstate and international trade

**FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT:*****Market Access Program (MAP)***

The NPC also urges that the Congress maintain the spending level for the Market Access Program (MAP) at its authorized level of \$200 million annually.

***Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS)***

The NPC supports a minimum of \$279 million for salaries and expenses of the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). This level is the minimum necessary for the Agency given the multitude of trade negotiations and discussions currently underway. The Agency has had to absorb pay cost increases, as well as higher operating costs for its overseas offices, such as increased payments to the Department of State for services provided at overseas posts. However, this minimal budget request does not allow for expanded enforcement activities to assure that various trade agreements are being properly implemented. The Congress should consider increasing the budget request to allow for more FAS trade enforcement activities.

**FOOD AID PROGRAMS:*****McGovern-Dole***

The NPC supports a level of at least \$108 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food Aid Program. The Program has included potato products.

**PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT:*****Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)***

Given the transfer of Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) personnel at U.S. ports to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), it is important that certain USDA-APHIS programs be adequately funded to ensure progress on export petitions and protection of the U.S. potato growers from invasive, harmful pests and diseases. Even though DHS staffing has increased, agriculture priorities have not yet been adequately addressed.

*Golden Nematode Quarantine* – The NPC supports an appropriation of \$1,266,000 for this quarantine which is what is believed to be necessary for USDA and the State of New York to assure official control of this pest. Failure to do so could adversely impact potato exports.

*Emerging Plant Pests* – The NPC supports at least \$145 million with \$9.5 million going to the potato cyst nematode regulatory, control and survey activity. The recent discovery of Golden Nematode in seed fields in Alberta, and possibly linked to production fields in the United States, has increased the scope and cost of the national survey being conducted by USDA. In addition, the costs of the eradication program have increased due to rising input costs and some expansion of target acres.

*Pest Detection* – The NPC supports \$45 million. This is essential for the Plant Protection and Quarantine Service's (PPQ) efforts against potato pests and diseases, such as *Ralstonia* and the potato cyst nematode, and funds many cooperative pest and disease programs.

*Trade Issues Resolution Management* – The NPC supports \$19 million but ONLY if any increase is specifically for plant protection and quarantine activities. These activities are of increased importance as new trade agreements are negotiated, the Agency must have the necessary staff and technology to work on plant related import/export issues and to resolve phytosanitary trade issues in a timely manner.

#### AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS:

##### *National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)*

The NPC supports an addition of \$8.4 million and report language to assure that the potato objective yield and grade and size surveys and vegetable pesticide use surveys are continued. These surveys provide valuable data to the growers and the EPA for use in registration and reregistration decisions for key chemical tools. NASS has discontinued these chemical use surveys for fruits and vegetables.

House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies

Testimony on the FY 2010 Budget by Mimi Brody, Director of Federal Affairs  
The Humane Society of the United States  
May 1, 2009

As the largest animal protection organization in the country, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to your Subcommittee on FY 2010 items of great importance to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and its 11 million supporters nationwide. In this testimony, we request the following amounts for the following USDA accounts:

- FISIS/Humane Methods of Slaughter Act Enforcement – funding and language to improve enforcement (defer to subcommittee expertise for specific funding level)
- FISIS/Horse Slaughter – language mirroring FY 2009 omnibus provision
- APHIS/Horse Protection Act Enforcement – at least \$1 million
- APHIS/Animal Welfare Act Enforcement – \$22,275,270
- APHIS/Investigative and Enforcement Services – \$14,036,350
- OIG/including Animal Fighting Enforcement – \$87,910,150
- CSREES/Veterinary Student Loan Forgiveness – \$5,000,000
- APHIS/Emergency Management Systems/Disaster Planning for Animals – \$1,001,000
- NAL/Animal Welfare Information Center -- \$1,978,400

**Enforcement of Animal Welfare Laws**

We thank you for your outstanding support during recent years for improved enforcement by USDA of key animal welfare laws and we urge you to sustain this effort in FY 2010. Your leadership is making a great difference in helping to protect the welfare of millions of animals across the country. As you know, better enforcement will also benefit people by helping to prevent: 1) food safety risks to consumers from sick animals who can transmit illness, and injuries to slaughterhouse workers from suffering animals; 2) orchestrated dogfights and cockfights that often involve illegal gambling, drug trafficking, and human violence, and can contribute to the spread of costly illnesses such as bird flu; 3) the sale of unhealthy pets by commercial breeders, commonly referred to as “puppy mills”; 4) laboratory conditions that may impair the scientific integrity of animal-based research; 5) risks of disease transmission from, and dangerous encounters with, wild animals in or during public exhibition; and 6) injuries and deaths of pets on commercial airline flights due to mishandling and exposure to adverse environmental conditions. In order to continue the important work made possible by the Committee’s prior support, we request the following for FY 2010:

**Food Safety and Inspection Service / Humane Methods of Slaughter Act Enforcement**

**We request funding and language to ensure strengthened HMSA enforcement.** We greatly appreciated the Committee’s inclusion of language calling on USDA to immediately close the downed cattle loophole, language that was indeed effective, as President Obama announced

USDA's new no-downed cattle rule just three days after he signed the omnibus into law. We also greatly appreciated the Committee's inclusion of a \$2 million increase in FY 2009 to begin to address severe shortfalls in the agency's oversight of humane handling rules for animals at slaughter facilities, oversight that is important not only for animal welfare but also for food safety. This problem came sharply into focus last year when egregious abuse of cattle was revealed from a 6-week hidden camera investigation of a plant – which happened to be the #2 beef supplier to the National School Lunch Program and had been honored by USDA as “Supplier of the Year” for the 2004-2005 academic year – leading to the nation's largest meat recall in history. In that case, the blatant and recurrent violations of food safety and humane rules were not reported by 5 USDA inspection personnel at the plant. Subsequent undercover investigations showed the mistreatment was not an isolated case, and a USDA Inspector General's audit identified several serious, continuing weaknesses in the inspection regime. We request funding and language to ensure that inspectors are continually observing live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas, and that USDA officials are taking strong action to avert violations of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and the ban on slaughter of cattle too sick or injured to stand and walk. We urge the Committee to make this a high priority in order to better protect consumers and animals.

Specifically, we recommend a combination of measures to ensure meaningful compliance. More inspectors observing live animals are needed, and all inspectors should be trained and directed to monitor the treatment of live animals to ensure that they are handled humanely. Inspectors must understand that their oversight responsibilities begin at the moment animals arrive at slaughter premises, including when the animals are on trucks at slaughter facilities. An inspector should meet each truck when it arrives on the premises and should order the immediate humane euthanasia and condemnation of any cattle who are non-ambulatory. Egregious conduct such as forcefully striking an animal with an object, dragging an animal, ramming or otherwise attempting to move an animal with heavy machinery, or using electric shock, water pressure, or other extreme methods should be explicitly prohibited and those policies established in a formal rule to take effect immediately. Inspections should be unannounced and not on a predictable schedule. Oversight could be enhanced with video surveillance, accessible for viewing by independent third parties, but this should complement, not be a substitute for, improved inspections. Inspectors must be encouraged to report violations, rather than being discouraged from and even reprimanded for doing so by their superiors. Egregious humane handling violations must be noted through Noncompliance Reports and not just through Memoranda of Interview, so that documentation of these serious violations will be accessible through the PBIS system to other inspectors, USDA's Office of Food Safety, Congress, and the public. Penalties should be more meaningful, particularly for repeat or egregious violations of humane handling standards. It would be helpful to rotate inspectors to ensure that they do not become too close with plant personnel, and undercover investigations by USDA personnel, under the OIG or otherwise, would bolster deterrence.

#### Horse Slaughter

**We request inclusion of the same language barring USDA from the expenditure of funds for horse slaughter inspection as the Committee included in the FY 2009 omnibus.** This

provision is vital to prevent renewed horse slaughter activity in this country.

#### **APHIS / Horse Protection Act Enforcement**

**We request at least \$1 million for strengthened enforcement of the Horse Protection Act.**

Congress enacted the Horse Protection Act (HPA) in 1970 to end the cruelty and abuse of “soring” – a practice in which unscrupulous trainers use a variety of methods to inflict pain on sensitive areas of Tennessee Walking Horses’ feet and legs in an effort to exaggerate their high-stepping gait and gain an unfair competitive advantage at industry horse shows. For example, caustic chemicals – such as mustard oil, diesel fuel, kerosene, and industrial cleaners – are painted on the lower front legs of a horse. Then, the horse’s legs are wrapped in plastic wrap and tight bandages to “cook” the chemicals deep into the horse’s flesh. Sored horses are often left standing in their stalls for days at a time with their legs coated and wrapped. This makes the horse’s legs extremely painful and sensitive, and can result in permanent damage or even death in some cases. It is not uncommon to see sored horses lying down in their stalls, moaning in pain. When ridden, the horse is fitted with chains that slide up and down the horse’s sore legs, forcing him to produce an exaggerated, high-stepping gait in the show ring. In addition, other chemicals such as salicylic acid are used to slough off the scarred tissue and granulomas in an attempt to disguise the sored areas, a practice that is equally painful and cruel to these horses. When shown, some Tennessee Walking horses are fitted with heavy stacked shoes. Another particularly egregious form of soring – known as pressure shoeing – involves cutting a horse’s hoof almost to the quick, paring it down to the sensitive live tissue and causing an extreme amount of pain every time the horse bears weight on the hoof. To further increase the pain in the horse’s feet, foreign objects such as metal screws or acrylic are often inserted between the stacks and the horse’s hoof.

Though soring has been illegal for almost 40 years, this cruel practice continues unabated by the well-intentioned but seriously understaffed APHIS inspection program. The most effective way to meet the goal of the Horse Protection Act is to have Animal Care inspectors present at the shows. Exhibitors who sore their horses go to great lengths to avoid detection, including fleeing a show when USDA inspectors arrive. Unfortunately, given an enforcement budget that has remained static at around \$500,000 since 1976, Animal Care is able to attend only about 6% of the more than 500 Tennessee Walking Horse shows held annually. Funding of at least \$1 million in FY 2010 will begin to address the need for additional inspectors, training, security (to address threats of violence against inspectors), and advanced detection equipment (thermography and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry machines) to give agency officials the tools they need to meaningfully enforce this law as Congress intended.

#### **APHIS / Animal Welfare Act Enforcement**

**We request \$22,275,270 (near level funding) for AWA enforcement under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).** We commend the Committee for responding in recent years to the urgent need for increased funding for the Animal Care division to improve its inspections of almost 16,000 sites, including commercial breeding facilities, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and airlines, to ensure compliance with AWA standards. As part of the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress established a new responsibility for this division – to enforce a ban on imports from

foreign puppy mills where puppies are mass produced under inhumane conditions and then forced to endure harsh long-distance transport, so that many arrive ill or dead or die soon after being sold to an American family. Animal Care currently has 111 inspectors (with 5 vacancies in the process of being filled), compared to 64 inspectors at the end of the 1990s. An appropriation at the requested level would maintain FY 2009 funding with a modest increase to cover pay costs and additional responsibilities associated with the new import ban and the increasing number of licensed/registered facilities.

#### **APHIS / Investigative and Enforcement Services**

**We request \$14,036,350 (near level funding) for APHIS Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES).** We appreciate the Committee's consistent support for this division, which handles many important responsibilities, including the investigation of alleged violations of federal animal welfare laws and the initiation of appropriate enforcement actions. The volume of animal welfare cases is rising significantly as new facilities become licensed and registered. An appropriation at the requested level would maintain FY 2009 funding with a modest increase to cover pay costs.

#### **Office of Inspector General / Animal Fighting Enforcement**

**We request \$87,910,150 (near level funding) for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to maintain staff, improve effectiveness, and allow investigations in various areas, including enforcement of animal fighting laws.** We appreciate the Committee's inclusion of funding and language in recent years for USDA's OIG to focus on animal fighting cases. Congress first prohibited most interstate and foreign commerce of animals for fighting in 1976, tightened loopholes in the law in 2002, established felony penalties in 2007, and further strengthened the law as part of the 2008 Farm Bill, in the wake of the high-profile Michael Vick dogfighting case. We are pleased that USDA is taking seriously its responsibility to enforce this law, working with state and local agencies to complement their efforts and address these barbaric practices, in which animals are drugged to heighten their aggression and forced to keep fighting even after they've suffered grievous injuries. Dogs bred and trained to fight endanger public safety, and some dogfighters steal pets to use as bait for training their dogs. Cockfighting was linked to an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in 2002-2003 that cost taxpayers more than \$200 million to contain. It's also been linked to the death of a number of people in Asia reportedly exposed through cockfighting activity to bird flu. Given the potential for further costly disease transmission, as well as the animal cruelty involved, we believe it is a sound investment for the federal government to increase its efforts to combat illegal animal fighting activity. We also support the OIG's auditing and investigative work to improve compliance with the humane slaughter law and downed animal rules and the Horse Protection Act.

#### **Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service / Veterinary Student Loan Forgiveness**

**We request \$5,000,000 to continue the implementation of the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (P.L. 108-161), specifically authorized in 2003.** This program received

\$2,950,000 in FY 2009, and was projected to need \$5,000,000 in its third year under the CBO score accompanying authorization. We appreciate that Congress is working to address the critical shortage of veterinarians practicing in rural and inner-city areas, as well as in government positions at FSIS and APHIS. A 2009 Government Accountability Office report enumerating the challenges facing veterinary medicine identified that an inadequate number of veterinarians to meet national needs is among the foremost challenges. A 2006 study demonstrated the acute and worsening shortage of veterinarians working in rural farm animal practice, while domestic pets in both rural and urban areas are often left without necessary medical care. Having adequate veterinary care is a core animal welfare concern. To ensure adequate oversight of humane handling and food safety rules, FSIS must be able to fill vacancies in inspector positions. Veterinarians also support our nation's defense against bioterrorism (the Centers for Disease Control estimate that 75% of potential bioterrorism agents are zoonotic – transmitted from animals to humans). They are also on the front lines addressing public health problems such as those associated with pet overpopulation, parasites, rabies, chronic wasting disease, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy ("mad cow" disease). Veterinary school graduates face a crushing debt burden of \$120,000 on average, with an average starting salary of \$61,000. For those who choose employment in underserved rural or inner-city areas or public health practice, the National Veterinary Medical Service Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to forgive student debt. It also authorizes financial assistance for those who provide services during federal emergency situations such as disease outbreaks.

**APHIS / Emergency Management Systems / Disaster Planning for Animals**

**We request \$1,001,000 (level funding) for Animal Care under APHIS' Emergency Management Systems line item.** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated that many people refuse to evacuate if they are forced to leave their pets behind. The Animal Care division has been asked to develop infrastructure to help prepare for and respond to animal issues in a disaster and incorporate lessons learned from previous disasters. These funds will be used for staff time and resources to support state and local governments' and humane organizations' efforts to plan for protection of people with animals. The additional resources will enable the agency to participate, in partnership with FEMA, in the National Response Plan without jeopardizing other Animal Care programs.

**Animal Welfare Information Center**

**We request \$1,978,400 for AWIC.** These funds will enable AWIC to improve its services as a clearinghouse, training center, and educational resource to help institutions using animals in research, testing and teaching comply with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, including consideration of alternatives to minimize or eliminate the use of animals in specific research protocols.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to share our views and priorities for the Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of Fiscal Year 2010. We are grateful for the Committee's past support, and hope you will be able to accommodate these modest requests to address some very pressing problems affecting millions of animals in the



United States. Thank you for your consideration.

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May 1, 2009

VIA AG.APPROP@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
FDA and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
Room 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

On behalf of the *Ad Hoc* Coalition in Support of Sustained Funding for Food Aid, we respectfully submit herewith the Coalition's statement for the hearing record on Fiscal Year 2010 funding. The members of the Coalition, which represent a number of farm commodity and maritime organizations, include the following (listed alphabetically):

- America Cargo Transport Corp.
- American Maritime Congress
- American Maritime Officers
- American Maritime Officers' Service
- American Peanut Council
- American Soybean Association
- Global Food and Nutrition Inc.
- International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
- Liberty Maritime Corporation
- Maersk Line, Ltd.
- Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)

May 1, 2009

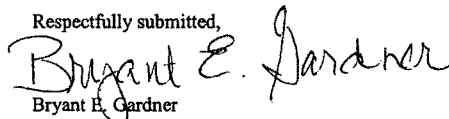
Page 2

- Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
- National Oilseed Processors Association
- National Potato Council
- Seafarers International Union
- Sealift, Inc.
- Tosi Maritime Consultants, LLC
- Transportation Institute
- United Maritime Group, LLC
- U.S. Dry Bean Council
- U.S. Dry Pea & Lentil Council
- U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
- USA Rice Federation

As required by Rule XI, 2(g)(4), we affirm that the coalition, organized solely for the purposes of presenting this testimony and advocating sustained food aid funding, has received no Federal contracts or grants during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years. We also enclosed a copy of the curriculum vitae for the undersigned.

Thank you for considering the Coalition's testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryant E. Gardner

BEG:ddb  
Enclosure

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Bryant E. Gardner**  
Winston & Strawn LLP  
1700 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

**Professional**

2000 – present      Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

**Education**

2000                  J.D., Tulane Law School  
1996                  B.A., Tulane University

**Bar Admissions**

District of Columbia  
Massachusetts

**Other**

Proctor at Admiralty

DC:601330.1

**STATEMENT OF THE *AD HOC* COALITION IN SUPPORT  
OF SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR FOOD AID**

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Submitted for the Hearing Record  
of the  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
FDA, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
May 1, 2009

Madam Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, this statement is respectfully submitted on behalf of the *ad hoc* coalition composed of the organizations listed below. The coalition supports sustained funding for our nation's food aid programs, including Titles I and II of P.L. 480, and therefore strongly opposes all proposals to divert funding away from these important programs.

**FOOD AID'S UNIQUE ROLE**

The donation of American commodities as food aid has been the cornerstone of U.S. and global foreign assistance programs since their inception. However, food aid has evolved in important ways over the years. Food aid began as an outgrowth of American farm policy that generated sizeable surpluses and American foreign policy characterized by a Cold War competition for the hearts and minds of impoverished populations across the globe. Since then, American farm policy has evolved away from surpluses, and therefore food can no longer be mischaracterized as "dumping" of excess commodities. Indeed, the United States now purchases commodities for donation on the open market. In today's economic climate, the need to provide societal stability, avoid failed states, prevent terrorist breeding grounds, and bolster America's image abroad has never been more important.

In recent years, debate in the foreign assistance community has at times questioned the role of food aid. Led by European Union trade negotiators who have complained about American food aid as a smokescreen to shield their own protectionist agriculture policies, some have bemoaned the potential distorting effects that food donations might have on local agriculture where U.S. food is disbursed. Other opponents of food aid have suggested that perhaps we would be better off if we did not donate commodities, but instead relied solely on agricultural development and local purchases. Like others in the aid community, we look forward to the day when food aid is no longer needed, but we are nowhere near that goal today. Our in-kind food aid programs are needed now more than at any time in their history.

Donated food aid is the most reliable means of introducing food to needy communities in order to combat hunger and save lives. This is not to say that other, creative means available under the Foreign Assistance Act or elsewhere have no role. To the contrary, these are an important part of the aid "tool kit", which can and should be employed to further developmental goals, including food self-sufficiency among food aid recipients and to address unforeseeable

Statement of the *Ad hoc* Coalition for Food Aid  
 May 1, 2009  
 Page 2

breaks in the food aid pipeline. But those that paint food aid as unnecessary and even harmful exhibit shortsightedness that does a great disservice to those we all strive to help.

The need for food aid today is stronger than ever. Hunger is a powerful destabilizing force, and America faces a convergence of terrorist and other security threats from failed and unstable states that feed on ill will toward our nation. The U.N. WFP tells us that in recent years the food insecure have been hit by a “perfect storm” of increases in food prices coupled with export restrictions imposed by traditional regional and local food exporters. Here at home, the economy has lost 5.1 million jobs since December 2007. U.S. food aid programs not only further our humanitarian and food security goals by allowing Americans to contribute to the needy in a tangible way, but the programs also provide stable jobs for Americans. These programs help us get more from our aid dollars both here and abroad.

#### **THE SHARP DECLINE IN FOOD AID**

Despite the broad, bipartisan support that food aid has long enjoyed, shipments declined by 71%, from 9.1 million tons in 1999 to a low of 2.7 million tons in 2007. These shipment levels are less than one-third of what they were a decade ago even though the most fragile communities now find themselves in the grip of an unprecedented food crisis. Therefore, we respectfully request that this steady erosion of food aid be reversed, and that funding be at least maintained at the \$2.5 billion level appropriated in FY 2008 to ensure the continued effectiveness and stability of these important and historically successful programs.

#### **FOOD AID VERSUS CASH DONATIONS FOR “LOCAL AND REGIONAL PURCHASES”**

Food for Peace, which provides farm products grown in the United States to millions overseas in bags marked “From the American People,” is a clear and tangible sign of America’s concern and generosity to its recipients. This same “in-kind” composition generates important economic benefits to our nation—vital jobs in many industries, farm income, markets for agriculture processors, and revenue for American transportation providers and ports. It also generates Federal, state, and local tax revenues, as well as secondary economic effects, such as farm equipment purchases and farm family spending in our broader economy. For these reasons, a strong domestic constituency for food aid, in good economic times and bad, has sustained America’s food aid programs through decades of competing funding priorities. As Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack said during the 2009 International Food Aid Conference, “[O]ur capacity to meet this extraordinary need [of global hunger] must start with a commitment to build a strong economy here in the United States. Without that strong economy, we cannot make a strong commitment to International Food Aid.”

Furthermore, for decades American agriculture interests have provided a dependable source of high-quality nutritious food that is not always reliably available to local or regional markets. Given the ongoing food crisis for many nations, in terms of price, availability, and quality, and considering the recent actions by some food-exporting nations to halt food exports when domestic shortages occur, the amount and dependability of U.S.-produced food aid in P.L. 480 is crucial to our humanitarian assistance effort.

Statement of the *Ad hoc* Coalition for Food Aid  
 May 1, 2009  
 Page 3

Using American taxpayer dollars to purchase foreign agricultural commodities would forego the unique benefits of U.S. food aid, such as predictable food aid supply and good American jobs, when our country and food-deficit areas need them most. Nevertheless, additional resources have already been directed to so-called "local and regional purchases": USAID was recently provided new funding of \$125 million under the Foreign Assistance Act through the International Disaster and Famine Assistance Account and Congress also established a \$60 million CCC-funded USDA pilot program in the 2008 Farm Bill to examine the potential dangers and benefits of this approach before considering further expansion of its use in conjunction with a strong in-kind food aid program centered around American commodities.

#### RESTORATION OF TITLE I/FOOD FOR PROGRESS

Recent focus has been upon Title II emergency food aid, but the Title I concessional sales food aid program is also an important tool in the aid "toolbox". In order to ensure that countries with the most dire need have sufficient donated food aid, the coalition recommends that USDA offer the Title I concessional sales program to countries that can afford it. Title I allows us to leverage our aid dollars, helping more people in need with our limited budget resources.

To the extent that the Title I funding truly cannot be used for concessional sales, it may be converted to donations on full grant terms through the Food for Progress ("FFP") program. There is strong demand for Title I funding channeled through FFP: For FY 2007, 100 proposals were submitted by PVOs and 16 by governments, but only 11 new proposals were approved.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Madam Chairman, the coalition is committed to maintaining the funding for America's food aid programs to meet humanitarian needs, enhance the potential for economic growth in recipient countries, and stimulate the economy here at home. Our recommendation is to increase, over time, annual food assistance with a blend of programs supported by direct appropriations and CCC program authorities. Specifically, the coalition respectfully recommends the following:

- o Full funding of Title II at the \$2.5 billion authorized by law, which is consistent with the FY 2008 appropriation level.
- o Title I/Food for Progress program levels should be restored to responsible levels so that the unique efficiencies of the program are not lost and more people can be fed.
- o In committee report language, the Committee should reiterate its FY 2003 directive to the administration to make greater use of existing CCC authorities to expand food aid to regions in critical need.

P.L. 480 Food for Peace is the world's most successful foreign assistance program, and has saved countless lives. Its straightforward delivery of American food to the hungry fills a

Statement of the *Ad hoc* Coalition for Food Aid

May 1, 2009

Page 4

clear and immediate need overseas, and its unique architecture has made it a successful program here at home that has endured for over fifty years. While we support creative efforts to address the root causes of hunger, we cannot emphasize enough that now, more than ever, the world needs P.L. 480 food aid.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

America Cargo Transport Corp.	National Corn Growers Association
American Maritime Congress	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
American Maritime Officers	National Oilseed Processors Association
American Maritime Officers' Service	National Potato Council
American Peanut Council	Seafarers International Union
American Soybean Association	Sealift, Inc.
Global Food and Nutrition Inc.	Tosi Maritime Consultants, LLC
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots	Transportation Institute
Liberty Maritime Corporation	United Maritime Group, LLC
Maersk Line, Ltd.	U.S. Dry Bean Council
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association	U.S. Dry Pea & Lentil Council
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development	U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
National Association of Wheat Growers	USA Rice Federation



Receipt Reply requested:

To: House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Email: [AG.Approp@mail.house.gov](mailto:AG.Approp@mail.house.gov)

From: Jay Alexander, Founder of the grassroots citizens action group "We Can Take It!"

Address: 3301 58th Ave N#102,

St Petersburg, Florida 33714

Contacts:

Email: [info@wecantakeit.org](mailto:info@wecantakeit.org) / [jayalexus@yahoo.com](mailto:jayalexus@yahoo.com)

Phone: 727-412-5792 cell, 727-525-8769 home

Associates: Ken Bynum in Jay , FL (850) 675 6108 and Bill Reed in Altus, OK (580)-480-0519

Website: [www.wecantakeit.org](http://www.wecantakeit.org)

Re: Written Public testimony for the Reactivation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on Native American Lands, Public (Federal and Military Reservation) Lands.

We respectfully request amount of \$500 million dollars to be appropriated over a period of ten years for the reactivation of the CCC on sovereign Native American Lands. Monies would be distributed to the Native Tribes with oversight provided by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture., to fund and carry out shovel ready work projects similar to the template of FDR's CCC under a separate Indian Division for Native American Lands. The CCC would enable enrollement for all unemployed First American adults aged from 17 to 35. They would be able to work from their homes on infrastructure and ecosystem work projects on their sovereign tribal and adjacent lands. The CCC program worked for our first Americans in the past and can work for the entire nation again.

We also request the appropriation up to of 5 billion a year or to 50 billion over next decade (to include the allotment for the request above for our First Americans) for employment recovery for the rest of our Nation's fit young Americans and Veterans. (The estimated cost of the program is based on the 1942 dollar.) The program would again be conducted by the the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, the US Army (Defense) and the Department of Veterans Affairs and Labor, to avoid the creation of another government bureaucracy. This program would provide shovel ready projects and put up to a half a million enrollee work boots on the ground every year.

Shovel Ready projects as in FDR's time, work projects in general include forest, park, watershed, erosion control and grazing management. New projects would involve vocational training in solar and wind power, training and work for hazardous waste removal and projects involving phytoremediation, organic farming, new wildlife habitat and new areas for recreation.

The requested appropriation would include the purchase of acreage adjacent to government owned lands for the purpose of creating new green space for wildlife habitat and recreation.

Seventy-six years ago, the 73rd Congress and President Roosevelt faced a similar situation

banking crisis. FDR was, personally interested in preserving the environment and providing temporary employment for the nation's youth and veterans. Legislation to establish the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps was also introduced March 21, 1933 in a message to Congress he wrote...

"It is essential to our recovery program . . . the first of these measures . . . can and should be immediately enacted. I propose to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects . . . but also as a means of creating future national wealth. . . . More important, however, than the material gains from their labors will be the moral and spiritual value of such work."

The president himself shepherded the legislation through both houses. It was signed into law 10 days later. Over the next nine years, almost 4 million young men were put to work reclaiming the country's natural resources. The men lived in government camps, food and clothing were provided, the Army supervised the camps, and the men were required to send 80 percent of their pay of \$30 back to their families. (\$30 in 1933 is equivalent to \$451.48 in 2007.) It became the largest mobilization of civilian workers and the most popular government program in American History. In 1942, the 77th congress cut the CCC funding, but the program was never abolished by the 77th Congress and it only needs reactivated and the dust removed from the books.

The current rise in unemployment and poverty among unskilled young adults, war veterans (25% of the entire US homeless population today is our Veterans) and Native Americans (many reservations have as much as 50% unemployment). Global warming and our environmental need our stewardship. Our infrastructure is now rated at a D grade by the American Society of Engineers.

The time is right to reactivate the US Civilian Conservation Corps for our First Americans. It is by far the best "Shovel Ready" program to date to put thousands of work boots on the ground within a matter of weeks. This program is proven cost effective and would give the U.S. Taxpayer more 'Bang for the Buck!'

"We Can Take It!" urges the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to give serious consideration to remobilize this 'Shovel Ready' workforce to salvage First American Lands and to salvage the lives of many young Native American citizens and Native American Veterans, now in jeopardy. They would be given jobs in the CCC if they qualify from the state of Maine to the US Territory of American Samoa.

Similar federal, state, and local government work programs for Native Lands should be re-absorbed into the Civilian Conservation Corps to avoid waste in overlap, fraud and abuse and insure government accountability to the people of the United States.

This program would now be open to women and also offer individuals an alternative to military service. Those who fulfill their obligation would have access to the GI Bill. The military would have fit men and women to enter if they choose to further serve their country.

Dr Neil M. Maher, author and associate professor of history at Rutgers University, said, "Brazil has recently begun looking back to Franklin Roosevelt's CCC to help solve that country's economic and environmental problems. Plagued by high unemployment rates approaching ten percent, local, state, and federal governments in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and corporations have begun putting jobless Brazilians to work planting trees. The goal of Brazil's CCC-like program, which the Nature Conservancy helped

initiate, is to plant one billion trees over the next ten years across the country's Atlantic Forest. Rather than funding the program solely by increasing taxes and federal spending, Brazil will rely on novel market mechanisms including the sale of sequestration vouchers on the international carbon market, obtained through the program's reforestation efforts, as well as the collection of water use fees in the reforested regions. Similar tree-planting programs reminiscent of FDR's CCC are also now operating in China along the Yangtze River and through Wangari Maathai's Greenbelt Movement in Kenya. Even war-torn Afghanistan has created its own "Afghan Conservation Corps. The United States needs to follow suit, and Barack Obama's first 100 days in office is one place to start. Like Roosevelt, Obama should ask Congress to create a Civilian Conservation Corps, but with a twist. Along with planting trees, this new and improved Corps should put young Americans, both men and women, to work planting windmills across the former Dust Bowl, solar energy panels throughout the Sunbelt, and energy-efficient biofuels on farms in every corner of the country, all in an effort to reduce both unemployment and the production of greenhouse gasses that lead to global warming. While Roosevelt funded the New Deal's CCC with federal dollars, public spending for Obama's new program could be greatly reduced through market mechanisms like those embraced by Brazil; by collecting carbon vouchers and water use fees from the new program's reforestation efforts, and by selling clean, green energy generated from new windmills, solar panels, and biofuels. The young men and women enrolling in this market-driven Corps would also benefit. Not only would they gain valuable training, skills, and experience in the expanding green economy, but they could also be encouraged to put their enrollment stipend towards a college education."

The US Civilian Conservation Corps over the years would enroll young men, women, and veterans. They will all gain strong civic, work and conservation ethics. They would also be trained and skilled in disaster relief and on call.. This program would be of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Contact us for additional information and we are available for any future hearings.

Thank you.

Jay Alexander

Founder of WE CAN TAKE IT

*For Further Information on this Statement, Contact:*

R. Thomas Van Arsdall, National C-FAR Executive Director  
[tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com) or (703) 509-4746

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)

**GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

P. O. Box 9 Odanah, WI 54861 715/682-6619 FAX 715/682-9294

**MEMBER TRIBES**

<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>WISCONSIN</b>	<b>MINNESOTA</b>
Bay Mills Community Keweenaw Bay Community Lac Vieux Desert Band	Bad River Band Red Cliff Band Sokaogon Chippewa	Lac Courte Oreilles Band Lac du Flambeau Band St. Croix Chippewa Fond du Lac Band Mille Lacs Band

**FY 2010 Testimony**

**United State House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations**

**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies**

**by**

**James E. Zorn, Executive Administrator  
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)**

**Date:** May 1, 2009

**Agency Involved:** USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Summary of FY 2010 Testimony:**

Provide \$185,000 for Ceded Territory wild rice restoration: GLIFWC requests Congress appropriate \$185,000 to develop and implement an 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territory wild rice restoration program in Wisconsin.

Restore \$300,000 for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC): WTCAC requests Congress restore \$300,000 in funding eliminated by the Bush Administration.

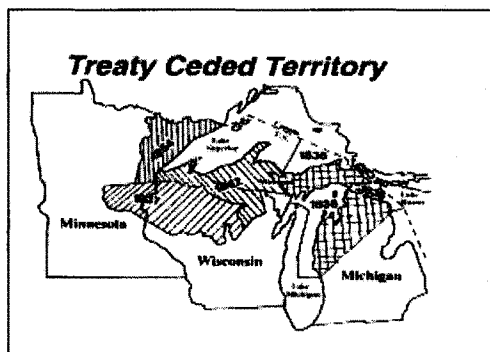
Maintain EQIP and WHIP program funding: GLIFWC supports Congress providing \$1.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and \$85 million for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill to protect the soil, water, plant and wildlife resources of the 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854 ceded territory.

Re-affirm support for local decision making: The success of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is due in large part to a program structure that stresses local decision making.

Disclosure of USDA Grants Contracted: GLIFWC is an intertribal organization which, under the direction of its member tribes, implements federal court orders governing tribal harvests of off-reservation natural resources and the formation of conservation partnerships to protect and enhance natural resources within the 1836, 1837, and 1842 ceded territories (See map). In 2008, GLIFWC contracted \$36,029 in NRCS funding to develop an Invasive Plant Risk Assessment/Prioritization Model.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, my name is James E. Zorn. I am the Executive Administrator of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). Our eleven member tribal governments thank you for considering our testimony regarding programs funded by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. GLIFWC's testimony stresses four major objectives: 1) provide funding for a 1837 and 1842 ceded territory wild rice restoration program; 2) restore funding for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) at \$300,000; 3) provide funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) at \$1.45 billion and Habitat Incentives Program at \$85 million and support intertribal and tribal efforts to participate in conservation partnerships; and 4) Re-affirm support for local decision making in the operation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

**Background:** GLIFWC is comprised of eleven (11) sovereign tribal governments located throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The Commission's purpose is to protect and enhance treaty-guaranteed rights to hunt, fish, and gather on inland territories ceded under the Chippewa treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842; to protect and enhance treaty guaranteed fishing on the Great Lakes; and to provide cooperative management and protection of these resources. The Commission participates in a wide range of cooperative management activities with local, state, federal, and foreign governments. Some of these activities arise from court orders, while others are developed in general government-to-government dealings between tribes and other governments.



**1837 and 1842 Ceded Territory Wild Rice Restoration Program:** Wild rice and the wetland communities of which it is a part are a vital economic, cultural and ecological component of northern Wisconsin. However, wild rice wetlands are considered a scarce resource in Wisconsin and are so listed in the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Wild rice has long been an important food source to the Ojibwe (who refer to it as manoomin), and it remains an important economic commodity, sold to tourists visiting reservations in the state. License sales to non-Indian harvesters have also increased in recent years.

**Ecological benefits:** Wild rice has significant ecological values that provide: 1) a highly nutritious energy source for ducks, geese, swans, rails, red-winged blackbirds and other species of birds during the fall migration, 2) cover and brood rearing habitat for nesting ducks, 3) food for muskrats, deer and other herbivores, and 4) important nursery areas for young fish and amphibians.

Improving Water Quality: Rice beds can help maintain wetland water quality by tying up nutrients, stabilizing loose soils, and forming a natural windbreak over shallow-water areas, preventing soil nutrients from being stirred into the water column. Given these ecological characteristics, restoration of wild rice beds near locations known to possess high levels of nutrient runoff from agricultural would improve water quality.

The Need for Restoration: Unfortunately, many historic rice beds in the state have been lost to water level changes and other negative impacts. Remaining rice beds face increasing threats from human-induced impacts including increased boating, shoreline development, direct removal, water level manipulation, and the introduction of exotic species.

Partnerships at Risk: In the past fourteen years, GLIFWC and its cooperators have seeded approximately 57 tons of wild rice, and interest from cooperators remains high. Restoration efforts remain focused on Wisconsin waters where the losses from historic times have been greatest. One measure of the success of this program can be gleaned from the harvest data available for Wisconsin, where 30% of the harvest from 2004-2007 came from stands that have been seeded. In the past, most wild rice seeding projects are conducted with contributions of time and/or dollars from other cooperators, maximizing the effectiveness of the dollars contributed to this project. Unfortunately federal, state and local funding reductions now threaten this successful resource rehabilitation initiative and no alternate program exists to take its place. GLIFWC proposes to use NRCS funding to continue cooperative wild rice seeding of seeded territory waters.

Establishing a Long Term Strategy: As part of a two year NRCS initiative, GLIFWC proposes to develop a long-range wild rice rehabilitation strategy for the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin. Under a State/Tribal committee formed as part of the legal case that reaffirmed the tribes' off-reservation treaty rights, GLIFWC would work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and its member tribes to establish the scientific parameters which would enable cooperators to effectively rehabilitate wild rice beds through: 1) a systematic survey and site evaluation of potential wild rice rehabilitation sites, 2) agreed upon methodologies to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of earlier wild rice seeding efforts, and 3) GIS mapping of restored wild rice bed locations and potential restoration sites.

The value of restoration plans has long been recognized for many species of fish, wildlife and plants, yet this important management step has yet to be completed for wild rice. Among other benefits, a Wild Rice Restoration plan would: 1) provide increased harvest opportunities for state and tribal ricers, 2) provide natural resource managers unfamiliar with wild rice with effective wild rice restoration strategies, 3) provide information that would help managers educate the public about the value of this resource, 4) expand and enhance the working relationship between the State and the Tribes by establishing common goals and benefits in resource management, and 5) be useful in evaluating the effectiveness of wild rice restoration.

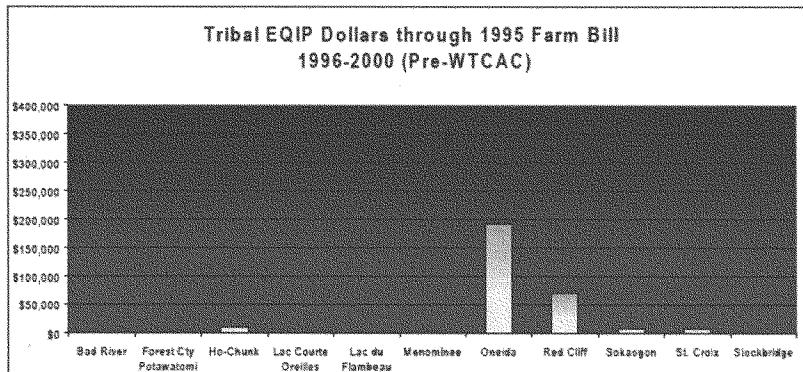
**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council:** The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) was established for the purposes of: 1) identifying tribal

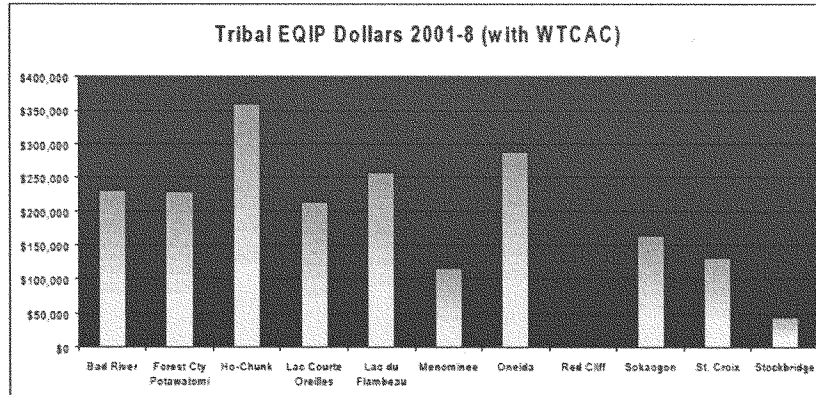


conservation issues, 2) advising the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on more effective ways to deliver USDA programs, and 3) assisting the Indian Nations of Wisconsin in accessing USDA resources. This Tribal Conservation Advisory Council was organized in March 2001 and is the first such council formed in the country as authorized under the 1995 Farm Bill.

GLIFWC member tribes participating in the WTCAC include the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Band, and St. Croix Chippewa Tribe. Through WTCAC, member tribes have been able to: 1) advise USDA and the NRCS on better ways to meet tribal needs, 2) identify natural resource issues affecting tribal lands or ways of life, 3) communicate tribal conservation needs to legislators, 4) provide input on pending conservation legislation and policy, 5) build strong communities through healthy natural resources, and 6) protect pristine areas and restore degraded resources.

Since the inception of WTCAC, tribal participation and entry into the EQIP and WHIP program has increased significantly. Through support from Wisconsin's State Conservationist Pat Leavenworth, the council has developed a relationship that allowed it to access EQIP and WHIP programs more effectively. For example, pre-WTCAC (1996-2000) tribes used approximately \$270,000 dollars from the 1995 Farm Bill EQIP appropriations. From 2001-2008 tribal participation in the EQIP program has increased to approximately \$2 million. This same success has been documented in tribes' access to funding from the WHIP program, enabling them to protect and rehabilitate wildlife on reservation lands.





**GLIFWC takes the following lessons from these circumstances:**

- Funding for tribal projects in Wisconsin is directly attributable to active outreach toward and integration of tribes into the budgeting process of NRCS state offices.
- A tribal advisory council consisting of the tribal representatives and funded by NRCS can effectively link tribes with the NRCS and result in more funding directed toward tribal projects.
- Set asides for tribal projects from NRCS state office funding allocations is critical to ensure that tribes are able to access their fair share of those allocations.
- The lessons learned in Wisconsin are useful in supporting efforts to bring NRCS programs to Michigan tribes given those tribes are provided an adequate commitment of staff time and fiscal resources.

A partnership integrating WTCAC, the State NRCS offices, and financial resources from USDA's EQIP and WHIP programs enables Tribal Nations to directly address conservation needs that are prioritized within their respective communities. We ask Congress to support maintaining funding for WTCAC at \$300,000 in FY 2010 and re-affirm support for local decision making processes.

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**Statement of the American Society for Microbiology to the  
 House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
 Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies on the  
 Food and Drug Administration Appropriation for FY 2010**

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is pleased to submit the following testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 appropriation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) research and regulatory programs. The ASM is the largest single life science organization in the world with about 42,000 members. The ASM mission is to enhance the science of microbiology, to gain a better understanding of life processes, and to promote the application of this knowledge for improved health and environmental well-being. The ASM recommends an appropriation of \$2.25 billion for the FDA in FY 2010, a \$386 million increase over the FY 2009 budget.

The FDA is responsible for the evaluation of domestic and foreign foods and consumer products to protect the public health and safety. Funding levels for sometime have significantly fallen below amounts needed to enable the FDA to fulfill its growing oversight for nearly one-quarter of the US Gross National Product. The ASM appreciates the estimated \$1 billion for food safety anticipated in the President's proposed FY 2010 budget. However, serious budget shortfalls in the past have diluted FDA's ability to respond to escalating, often unmet demands on its personnel and resources not only in food safety, but also across the agency. Each year, the nation spends nearly \$1.5 trillion on FDA regulated goods. It is essential that FDA have state-of-the-art scientific capabilities and a fully staffed contingent of scientists if the United States is to maintain its economic competitiveness. FDA's mission is not only to ensure product safety but to also stimulate and facilitate innovation.

Since January, the FDA has approved new drugs for diabetes and malaria, a rapid diagnostic test to detect the avian influenza H5N1 virus in minutes rather than hours, and the first approved drug made with materials from genetically engineered animals. Threats to public health persist, including sporadic food borne illnesses linked to everyday foods like tomatoes, peanuts, and recently, alfalfa sprouts. FDA's regulatory responsibilities cover the bulk of US domestic and imported foods, plus medical devices, drugs, food additives, blood and vaccine products, and cosmetics. Since 2001, its mission has also expanded to counterterrorism and homeland security. Several external reviews of FDA performance have confirmed in recent years that inadequate funding for the agency has undermined efforts to protect public health in the United States.

**A Safe and Secure US Food Supply Depends on FDA Excellence**

Regulating food in the United States is an enormous task. Food expenditures exceed \$1.1 trillion annually. In the past five years, the volume of imported products has doubled, with 60 percent

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categorized as food or food-related products, and is predicted to triple by 2015. Yet the FDA examined less than 1 percent of the 7.6 million fresh produce lines imported from fiscal years 2002 to 2007. This year, the nation will import agricultural products worth an estimated \$81 billion, continuing the steady trend of rising US consumption of imported food. The number of identified food borne disease outbreaks has tripled since the early 1990s. Each year, about 76 million people contract a food borne illness in the United States, about 325,000 require hospitalization, and about 5,000 die. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates medical costs and lost wages associated with just five of the major food borne illnesses reach \$6.9 billion annually, and total costs are likely much higher. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has enumerated more than 250 different food borne diseases and more causative agents continue to be found. FDA actions thus far this year have included the current recall of Salmonella-contaminated pistachio products; a consumer warning about certain cheeses that could contain Listeria monocytogenes, bacteria that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections; and advisories to food preparers about possible norovirus in some domestic oysters. As food moves from farm to table it encounters innumerable points for possible contamination, either accidental or deliberate. To mitigate failures in our highly complex food supply, the FDA's ongoing Protecting America's Food Supply initiative integrates food safety and food defense. In November 2007, the FDA launched its Food Protection Plan with a three-pronged strategy of expanded prevention, improved intervention, and more rapid response to events like disease outbreaks. The FDA also participates in the multiagency Action Plan for Import Safety, publishing in March its final rule on required prior notice of foreign food shipments arriving at US ports. Unfortunately, these and other FDA food safety programs have been consistently underfunded to the detriment of public health.

The following are examples of FDA's enormous responsibilities:

- The FDA regulates about 80 percent of the US food supply, responsible for \$417 billion worth of domestic food and \$49 billion in imported food annually.
- In the United States, the agency oversees more than 136,000 registered domestic food facilities (over 44,000 food manufacturers and processors, plus roughly 113,000 warehouses that include storage tanks and grain elevators).
- FDA personnel collaborate with staff at other federal agencies and state and local authorities to regulate more than 2 million farms, 935,000 restaurants and institutional food facilities, and 114,000 supermarkets, grocery stores, and other food outlets.
- Over 300 US ports receive products from more than 150 countries/territories. In the last decade, the number of food entry lines has tripled, shipped from approximately 200,000 FDA registered foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or store food consumed in the United States.

In 2008, the CDC concluded that the incidence of the most common food borne illnesses had changed very little in the previous three years, a grim plateau in preventing diseases caused by Salmonella, Escherichia coli and other food borne pathogens. The disturbing report joined other official reports, expert committee reviews, and publicized disease investigations that abundantly demonstrate the importance of improving food safety in the United States. In November 2007, FDA's own Science Advisory Board published a highly critical report concerning the state of

science at FDA and the ability to undertake its massive mission. Last September, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) published its negative review of the FDA's oversight of domestic and imported fresh produce, citing funding shortages and too few FDA inspectors as contributing factors.

Nationwide outbreaks of food-related illness grab headlines, exact high costs for the food industry, and force health officials to scramble to conduct the scientific detective work and implement preventive strategies to contain the problem. These outbreaks absorb significant FDA resources and personnel, like the far-reaching fallout from Salmonella-contaminated peanut products that is still rippling through the US food industry. Health officials have reported more than 600 cases of disease tied to consumption of the suspect products, leading to the voluntary recall of more than 2,100 products in 17 categories by more than 200 companies, and the list continues to grow. In January, the FDA expanded the recall list to include pet food products that contain peanut paste made by the company, which has declared bankruptcy. The large number of products and brands, magnified by the large quantities of some products, makes this one of the most complex food recalls in US history.

#### **FDA Oversight of Drugs, Vaccines, and Diagnostics Protects US Consumers**

Just as FDA's responsibilities in food safety have increased enormously over the past decade, so has its responsibility in other areas, especially drug safety, including adverse events as well as contamination both from microbial and chemical sources. We share the concerns detailed in the 2006 Report on Drug Safety and the Science Board Report.

The steady release of new therapeutic drugs, vaccines, and diagnostic tests by the US private sector helps protect the nation from infectious and other types of diseases. Several divisions within the FDA focus on evaluating both new and on-the-market products, assuring product safety and efficacy on behalf of health care providers, their patients, and the general public. Limited FDA budgets in recent years have not fully met the massive volume of responsibilities involved in this wide-ranging oversight, which includes detailed science-based lab analyses of new and established products, data assessment of incident reports, guidance statements and product alerts to the public and to health care providers, recall of unsafe products, and more.

Recent shortages of vaccines commonly used against rabies and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) have underscored the importance of FDA-approved vaccines regulated by the agency's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). Before development of Hib conjugate vaccines, about 20,000 US children had Hib infections each year, including 12,000 cases of bacterial meningitis of which about 5 percent died. Since the nation's Hib immunization program began in the early 1990s, incidence has decreased 99 percent. In developing countries, Hib remains a major cause of respiratory infections in infants and children. Unfortunately, a voluntary recall of Hib vaccine by a US manufacturer in December 2007 resulted in shortages that have since been implicated in small Hib outbreaks in Minnesota and Pennsylvania. In June 2008, a French supplier of rabies vaccine temporarily halted production to upgrade its facilities, prompting US officials to issue alerts regarding priority use of limited vaccine supplies. To maintain adequate immunization coverage, the FDA not only monitors already approved

vaccines, but also evaluates the latest vaccine technologies. This March, the agency approved a vaccine to prevent Japanese encephalitis (JE) that was developed using cell culture technology, making it the only JE vaccine available in the United States. Found mainly in Asia, the viral disease affects about 30,000 to 50,000 people each year, resulting in 10,000 to 15,000 deaths. It is rarely seen in the United States, but there have been cases among those traveling to Asia.

FDA scientists who evaluate new products must be able to assess leading-edge product development methodologies. For example, CBER researchers just completed a “proof-of-concept” study of a test using nanotechnology to detect quickly the smallest amount of anthrax toxin. Based on research at the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), the FDA approved in March the first DNA test that identifies the two types of human papillomavirus (HPV) responsible for the majority of cervical cancers among US women. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, causing more than 6 million new cases each year. The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) assures that all prescription and over-the-counter drugs are safe and effective, overseeing a regulatory portfolio of many thousands of products. In 2007 alone, CDER approved nearly 80 drugs and biologics, a laborious process that demands singular scientific capabilities.

The FDA also plays a key role in addressing the issue of antimicrobial resistance through its initiatives on monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, facilitating the appropriate use of products and tests for infectious diseases, educating the public and health professionals about safe and effective use of antimicrobials, and assuring accurate product labeling.

#### **Science at FDA Needs More Resources, Trained Personnel**

The ASM is very concerned about the perceived weaknesses in FDA science and the possible negative impacts on the nation’s health. The 2007 Science Board report conducted a thorough external review of science and technology across the agency. It identified several problem areas within the agency where FDA science was not keeping pace with the private sector, for example, the expertise necessary to evaluate products related to nanotechnology, robotics, systems biology, and especially genomics. The report also indicted inadequate computing capabilities used for surveillance and incident reporting, and a dwindling workforce of those trained in science-based investigation and research. In the 2008 GAO report on FDA’s oversight of fresh produce, the agency acknowledged that it lacks resources for funding crucial extramural or internal research to understand produce contamination by pathogens such as E. coli O157:H7 or Salmonella. The FDA remains the nation’s foremost regulatory agency, but optimal oversight of increasingly complex products and systems requires fully equipped FDA laboratories with leading-edge capabilities. This is of particular concern with regard to tissue based products and screening for adventitious infectious agents.

Research programs within the FDA focus on supporting the agency’s regulatory role with the necessary science and technology tools. Understanding the latest advances in multiple scientific disciplines is essential for FDA regulators, evidenced by the agency’s conclusion last year that meat and milk from clones of cattle, swine and goats are safe to eat, based on years of FDA study and analysis. The Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) conducts food,

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cosmetic, and color additive safety research to protect the public from illnesses, contaminants, or other threats from consumer goods. Its scientists study the emergence or re-emergence of food borne microbial pathogens and evaluate or develop new lab methods needed to investigate outbreaks. The Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) also funds research activities to inform policy and regulation, plus contributing to the nation's food defense efforts. ORA-supported research includes validation of detection methods for potential bioterrorism agents like *Clostridium botulinum* neurotoxin. The FDA has identified critical areas of needed research that include rapid test kit development, confirmatory methods, virology, biotechnology, in-vitro testing, and laboratory enhancement. To remedy these technological gaps, increased funding for FDA research is needed. As detailed in the 2007 Science Board Report, the continued underfunding of the *Critical Path Initiative* to bring FDA science into the 21st Century is a particular problem.

Last year, additional funding in the FY 2009 budget did add more than 1,300 new skilled employees. The second hiring phase, with a target of 1,400 additional staff, is underway, including chemists, microbiologists, and medical officers. However, critical personnel needs still remain, especially in the field of genomics, information technology, and risk communication. The agency also leverages resources through partnering with other stakeholders, for example, the National Center for Food Safety and Technology, a research consortium whose members investigate new molecular tools to study antimicrobial resistance among pathogens and other emerging food safety issues. In September, the FDA awarded \$5.2 million in grants to various state and local agencies to enhance food and feed safety including the first Rapid Response Team cooperative agreements with six US states to create RRT teams able to respond to all food hazard incidents in the farm-to-table continuum. Also included were grants to upgrade chemistry labs to better analyze food samples collected by the FDA or other agencies, part of the ongoing effort to boost the surge capacity of state health department laboratories. However, this level of research funding is woefully inadequate given the cost of this type of research and the unfunded research priorities across the agency.

#### **ASM Recommends a Substantial Increase in FDA Funding**

The ASM urges Congress to support the irreplaceable role of the Food and Drug Administration in protecting public health and safety. Repeated cautionary reports have warned of besieged and deteriorating FDA capabilities in the face of soaring imports, new product lines, and issues about drug safety. The ASM recommends \$2.25 billion for the FDA appropriation in FY 2010.

TESTIMONY OF THE  
RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATIONSUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, FY 2010

April 2009

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Wayne Dowd, and I am pleased to represent the Red River Valley Association as its President. Our organization was founded in 1925 with the express purpose of uniting the citizens of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas to develop the land and water resources of the Red River Basin.

The Resolutions contained herein were adopted by the Association during its 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Bossier City, Louisiana on February 19, 2009, and represent the combined concerns of the citizens of the Red River Basin Area as they pertain to the goals of the Association.

As an organization that knows the value of our precious water resources we support the most beneficial water and land conservation programs administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We understand that attention and resources must be given to our national security and alternate energy sources; however, we cannot sacrifice what has been accomplished on our nation's lands. NRCS programs are a model of how conservation programs should be administered and our testimony will address the needs of the nation as well as our region.

We want to express our appreciation for the funding levels provided by Congress in the FY 2009 Omnibus Bill. Your plus up over the Administration's budget of \$58 million in Conservation Operations and \$34 million in Watershed Rehabilitation was welcomed. More important was the funding you provided for Watershed & Flood Prevention (\$24.3 m) and RC&D (\$50.7 m) when the Administration 'zeroed' out those programs.

The President's FY 2010 budget has been provided in very general terms and it is not clear how he will allocate funding for NRCS and their programs. As of the submission date for this testimony, the details have not been released, so it is not possible to comment on his budget.

**1. Conservation Operations:** This account has been in steady decline, in real dollars, over the past several years. Mandated increases in pay and benefits, continuing increases in the 'cost of doing business' and budget reductions greatly reduces the effective work that can be accomplished in this account. Allocations should be increased not decreased and we acknowledge and appreciate that Congress did increase this account in FY 2009 from FY 2008. We request a total of \$930 million be appropriated for Conservation Operations for NRCS to meet the demands it faces today.

Conservation Technical Assistance is the foundation of technical support and a sound, scientific delivery system for voluntary conservation to the private users and owners of lands in the United



States. It is imperative that we provide assistance to all 'working lands' not just those fortunate few who are able to enroll in a Federal program. Working lands are not just crops and pasture (commodity staples) but includes forests, wildlife habitat and coastal marshes. The problem is that NRCS personnel funded from 'mandatory programs' can only provide technical assistance to those enrolled in these programs, leaving the majority of the agricultural community without technical assistance. We recommend that adequate funding be placed in 'Conservation Technical Assistance', and allow NRCS to provide assistance to all who are in need of assistance.

**2. Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (PL566 & 534):** There is no doubt that this is a Federal responsibility, in conjunction with a local sponsor. This program addresses all watersheds needs to include: flood protection, water quality, water supply and the ecosystem. There is no Corps of Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation or FEMA program to address small watershed needs, before disaster strikes. We recommend that Congress continue to hold oversight hearings to understand the importance and hear how popular this program is to our communities.

Over the past 50 years these projects have developed a \$15 billion infrastructure that is providing \$1.5 billion in annual benefits to over 47 million people. It is not a Federal program, but a federally assisted program. This partnership between local communities, state agencies and NRCS has been successful for over 50 years. It would take \$1.6 billion to fund the existing federal commitment to local project sponsors. This cost only increases every year if adequate funding is not provided.

All ongoing contracts will be terminated, if you allow this program to end. This will ultimately lead to lawsuits and tort claims filed by both sponsors and contractors, due to the federal government not fulfilling its contractual obligation.

We are very appreciative for the funding level of \$40 million enacted in FY 2009 (\$10 m more than FY 2008) , but we remind you that no funding was provided in FY 2007, the year Congress turned over the budget to the Administration – we can not allow that to happen again. For every \$1 spent, the nation realizes \$2 in benefits. Congress must take responsibility for this program.

There are many new projects, which are awaiting funds for construction under this program. We strongly recommend that a funding level of \$190 million be appropriated for Watershed Operations Programs, PL534 (\$20 million) and PL566 (\$170 million).

The Red River has proven, through studies and existing irrigation, to be a great water source for 'supplemental' irrigation. The two projects mentioned below, will use existing, natural bayous to deliver water for landowners to draw from. The majority of expense will be for the pump system to take water from the Red River to the bayous. These projects will provide the ability to move from ground water dependency to surface water, an effort encouraged throughout the nation. Both will enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality of the small communities adjacent to the projects.

a. **Red Bayou Irrigation Project, LA:** This project has received funding from the FY 2010 'Stimulus' package. The local sponsor is obtaining their cost share to move forward with construction. It is not only a very important irrigation project for NW Louisiana, but will serve as a model for similar projects throughout the state and along the Red River in Arkansas.

b. **Walnut Bayou Irrigation Project, AR:** Plans and specifications have been completed and it is ready to proceed into the construction phase. An irrigation district has been formed and they are prepared to take on the responsibility to generate the income for the O&M required to support this project. We request that \$4,000,000 be appropriated for these projects in FY 2010.

3. **Watershed Rehabilitation:** More than 10,400 individual watershed structures have been installed nationally, with approximately one-third in the Red River Valley. They have contributed greatly to conservation, environmental protection and enhancement, economic development and the social well being of our communities. More than half of these structures are over 30 years old and several hundred are approaching their 50-year life expectancy. Today you hear a lot about the watershed approach to resource management. They protect more people and communities from flooding now than when they were first constructed. The benefit to cost ratio for this program has been evaluated to be 2.2:1. What other federal program can claim such success?

In the next five years over 900 watershed structures will require over \$570 million for rehabilitation. Each year this number increases as more dams reach their 50-year life. There is no questioning the value of this program. The cost of losing this infrastructure exceeds the cost to reinvest in our existing watersheds. Without repairing and upgrading the safety of existing structures, we miss the opportunity to keep our communities alive and prosperous. It would be irresponsible to dismantle a program that has demonstrated such great return and is supported by our citizens. We cannot wait for a catastrophe to occur, where life is lost, to decide to take on this important work.

Past Administration budgets have neglected the safety and well being of our community needs and recommended minimum funding for this program. Appropriations have been drastically lower than the levels authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, which authorized \$600 million for rehabilitation for 2003-2007.

We request that \$65 million be appropriated to provide financial and technical assistance to those watershed projects where sponsors are prepared (35% cost share) to commence rehabilitation.

4. **Watershed Survey and Planning:** In FY 2006, \$6.1 million was appropriated to support this extremely important community program. However, no funding has been provided since FY 2007. NRCS has become a facilitator for the different community interest groups, state and federal agencies. In our states such studies are helping identify resource needs and solutions where populations are encroaching into rural areas. The Administration and Congress has decided not to fund this program. We disagree with this and ask Congress to fund this program at the appropriate level.

Proper planning and cooperative efforts can prevent problems and insure that water resource issues are addressed. Zeroing out the planning process assumes the economy will not grow and there is no need for future projects. We do not believe anyone supports or believes this. Another serious outcome is that NRCS will lose its planning expertise, which is invaluable.

We request this program be funded at a level of \$35 million.

We request that the following two studies be specifically identified and funded in the FY 2010 appropriation bill.

a. **Maniece Bayou Irrigation Project, AR:** This is a project in its initial stage of planning. An irrigation district is being formed to be the local sponsor. This project transfers water from the Red River into Maniece Bayou where landowners would draw water for supplemental irrigation. We request that \$200,000 be appropriated to initiate the plans and specifications.

b. **Lower Cane River Irrigation Project, LA:** The transfer of water from the Red River to the Lower Cane River will provide opportunities for irrigation and economic development. Funds are needed to initiate a Cooperative River Basin Study. We request that \$250,000 be appropriated for this study.

5. **Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D):** This has traditionally been a well-received program by the Administration, but not last year. The budget proposal zeroed out this important program. This program leverages its resources at 4 to 1, with communities, local sponsors and non-government organizations. The benefits are realized at over 14 to 1, average per project. Congress showed how important they believe this program is by providing \$50.7 million in FY 2009. We do not know what the current Administration will do, but we request Congress continue its support for this program.

We request that \$51 million be appropriated for this program, at the same level as in FY 2009.

6. **Mandatory Accounts (CCC) Technical Assistance (TA):** Request for assistance through the CCC programs has been overwhelming. Requests far exceed the available funds and place an additional workload on NRCS's delivery system. Adequate funding for TA must be provided at the full cost for program delivery. This includes program administration, conservation planning and contracting with each applicant. Congress, in the 2002 Farm Bill, wisely increased conservation programs each year. This increased investment, will increase the NRCS workload. It is imperative that NRCS receive the TA funding levels required to administer these programs. If they do not receive full funding these programs will not realize their full capability.

It has been mandated that a set percent of TA, from the CCC Program, must be used for TSPs, approximately \$40 million. This is equivalent to losing 600 staff years from NRCS manpower. This is another unacceptable policy, which will reduce the effectiveness of NRCS. This mandate must be eliminated.

Over 70% of our land is privately owned. This is important in order to understand the need for NRCS programs and technical assistance. Their presence is vital to ensuring sound technical standards are met in conservation. These programs not only address agricultural production, but sound natural resource management. Without these programs and NRCS properly staffed to implement them, many private landowners will not be served adequately to apply conservation measures needed to sustain our natural resources for future generations. Technical Assistance cannot be contracted out to private companies.

We are all aware of the issue with TMDL levels in our waterways. If our nation is to seriously address this we must look at the impacts from our farmlands. Assistance for land treatment plans and plan implementation is exactly what the NRCS Watershed programs are intended to address. Watershed programs should be receiving an increase in funds, not zeroed out!

With these new clean water initiatives why do we ignore the agency that has a proven record for implementing watershed conservation programs? Congress must decide; will NRCS continue to provide the leadership within our communities to build upon the partnerships already established? It is up to Congress to insure NRCS is properly funded and staffed to provide the needed assistance to our taxpayers for conservation programs.

These NRCS studies and watershed projects are an example of true 'cooperative conservation' initiatives. There is an interface with communities and local sponsors at each step of the process and local sponsors do cost share at the levels expected of them.

All these programs apply to the citizens in the Red River Valley and their future is our concern. The RRVA is dedicated to work toward the programs that will benefit our citizens and provide for high quality of life standards. We therefore request that you appropriate the requested funding within these individual programs, to insure our nation's conservation needs are met.

I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the members of the Red River Valley Association and we pledge our support to assist you in the appropriation process. Please direct your comments and questions to our Executive Director, Richard Brontoli, P.O. Box 709, Shreveport, LA 71162, (318) 221-5233, E-mail: redriverva@hotmail.com.

**Grant Disclosure:** The Red River Valley Association has not received any federal grant, sub-grant or contract during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years.

Testimony of the Izaak Walton League of America  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug  
Administration and Related Agencies

Submitted by Scott Kovarovics, Conservation Director

May 1, 2009

The Izaak Walton League of America appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for various agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. The League is a national, nonprofit organization founded in 1922. We have more than 36,000 members and nearly 300 chapters and state divisions nationwide. Our members are committed to advancing common sense policies that safeguard wildlife and habitat, support community-based conservation, and address pressing environmental issues. The League has been a partner with farmers and a participant in forming agriculture policy since the 1930s. The following pertains to conservation programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 was enacted with a prominent commitment to increased mandatory conservation spending. We urge the Subcommittee to maintain the mandatory spending levels for conservation programs as provided in the 2008 bill. The fiscal year 2010 budget is important to carrying out the changes in the 2008 bill and implementing new initiatives. These conservation programs are critical to working with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to undertake or improve conservation practices on their operations. These programs benefit producers through improved soil quality and productivity of their land, and the American people through cleaner air and water and healthy habitat.

Previous Farm Bills have included increased conservation authorizations that the League supported and fought hard to achieve. That pattern was certainly repeated with the new law, which contains a \$25 billion investment in conservation programs overall. Although the authorization is important, the country will only realize the true benefit of conservation policies if appropriations match the authorized levels. As documented in our research on prior Farm Bill funding:<sup>1</sup>

*Congress has also cut the funding committed to conservation programs in the previous [2002] Farm Bill. More than \$5 billion promised to conservation has been withheld. This despite the fact that as many as three-fourths of the eligible farmers and ranchers seeking conservation programs are turned away due to lack of funds. No similar caps have been applied to the unlimited crop payment programs.*

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<sup>1</sup> Redlin, Gupta, and Wiegand. 2007. *The 2007 Farm Bill: Stewardship, Prosperity, and Fairness*. Izaak Walton League of America. [http://www.iwla.org/publications/agriculture/Farm\\_Bill\\_2007\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.iwla.org/publications/agriculture/Farm_Bill_2007_WEB.pdf)

We were pleased that the House budget resolution for agriculture and natural resources matched the levels in the President's budget for discretionary programs and assumes levels provided by current law for mandatory programs. It is critical that authorized levels for vital programs are met and maintained in subsequent cycles for the life of the legislation. Specifically, the League believes achieving the following goals is essential:

- Meeting the Wetland Reserve Program's full 3.041 million acre, \$1.2 billion allocation over the life of FCEA will require \$473 million in FY 10 according to the Congressional Budget Office's March 2009 baseline.
- Adding 1.22 million acres to the Grassland Reserve Program by 2012, scored at \$300 million for the life of FCEA, with CBO baseline FY 2010 of \$78 million.
- Maintaining the 32 million acre enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program, scored at \$9.8 billion over the life of FCEA, and \$1.944 billion FY 2010.
- Achieving \$85 million annually for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

Additionally, the League worked to expand the Conservation Stewardship Program. Accompanying the positive revisions to better focus the program on higher environmental standards was an increase in authorized funding to enable enrollment of approximately 13 million acres per year. The March 2009 CBO baseline places FY 2010 mandatory funding at \$752 million. With the numerous environmental challenges facing U.S. agriculture, including climate change, soil quality deficiencies, declining pollinator health, and huge water quality and quantity issues, we strongly urge the Subcommittee to provide the full baseline amount in its bill.

Furthermore, effective implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs depends upon adequate technical resources to work with landowners in addressing their unique environmental concerns. Although conservation programs are available, under-investment in technical assistance limits agency support to assist farmers and ranchers in selecting and optimizing appropriate programs for their operations. Resource concerns and conservation practices vary throughout the country and the technical assistance provided to program participants is necessary to address specific environmental concerns. The technical expertise of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and partners that assist in the delivery of programs and technical assistance directly to landowners is necessary for the adoption and maintenance of conservation practices. We request that the Subcommittee support the mandatory levels of conservation program funding as provided in FCEA to enable robust technical resources to implement those programs successfully.

Finally, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is a very successful competitive grant program that funds farmer-driven research, education, and extension initiatives. SARE projects, and its unique regional approach, have a long record of building economic prosperity, innovation and opportunity in rural America—all

integrally aligned with natural resource conservation.

Demand for SARE is growing, however, most years it has been able to fund less than 10 percent of the proposals submitted. Forty million dollars are authorized for SARE's research and education program and \$20 million for its extension education and professional development program. However, appropriations for both programs combined has never topped \$19 million. The League requests a minimum FY 2010 appropriation for SARE of \$30 million, with \$25 million allocated to research and education and \$5 million to extension and professional development.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of fully-funding agricultural conservation programs.



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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1 May 2009

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
 Attention: Public Witness Testimony for the Record  
 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the FY 2010 budgets for the **Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services (CSREES), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**. The Wildlife Society represents over 8,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to sound wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Wildlife Society is committed to strengthening all federal programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats on agricultural and other private land.

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**Wildlife Services (WS)**, a unit of APHIS, is responsible for controlling wildlife damage to agriculture, aquaculture, forest, range, and other natural resources, wildlife-borne diseases, and wildlife at airports. Its activities are based on the principles of wildlife management and integrated damage management, and are carried out cooperatively with state fish and wildlife agencies. **The Wildlife Society recommends that Congress increase funding for this important program.**

### Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

**The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)** provides an expanded, comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources. The RREA funds, which are apportioned to State Extension Services, effectively leverage cooperative partnerships at an average of four to one, with a focus on private landowners. The need for RREA educational programs is greater than ever today because of continuing fragmentation of ownership, urbanization, the diversity of landowners needing assistance, and increasing societal concerns about land use and the impact on natural resources including soil, water, air, wildlife and other environmental factors. **The Wildlife Society recommends that the Renewable Resources Extension Act be funded at \$30 million**, as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The **McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program** is essential to the future of resource management on non-industrial private forestlands, as forest products are produced while conserving natural resources, including fish and wildlife. As demand for forest products grow,

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*



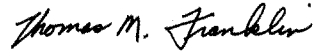
privately held forests will increasingly be needed to supplement supplies, but trees suitable for harvest take decades to produce. In the absence of long-term and on-going research, such as provided through McIntire-Stennis, the nation could be unable to meet future forest-product needs. **We appreciate the over \$27 million in funding allocated in the FY09 omnibus, and encourage a further increase in FY10.**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The Farm Bill conservation programs are more important than ever given huge backlogs of qualified applicants for these programs, increased pressure on farmland from the biofuels boom, sprawling development, and the ongoing declines in wildlife habitat and water quality. **The Wildlife Society recommends that the Farm Bill conservation programs be funded at the levels mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill. In particular, we encourage full funding of the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program at \$85 million.** In addition, we note that 4 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program contracts are expiring. **CRP should be funded at a level that allows for full enrollment of authorized CRP acres.**

Thank you for considering the views of wildlife professionals. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure adequate funding for wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Franklin  
President

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*

Martha Nolan  
Vice President, Public Policy  
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**Written Testimony By:**  
**Phyllis Greenberger, MSW: President and CEO, Society for Women's Health Research**  
**and Jeanne Becker, Ph.D.: Chair, Women's Health Research Coalition**

**Before the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**  
**May 1, 2009**  
**Submitted for the Record**

On the behalf of the Society for Women's Health Research and the Women's Health Research Coalition, we are pleased to submit testimony in support of increased funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and more specifically for the Office of Women's Health (OWH), a critical focal point on women's health within the Agency.

The Society for Women's Health Research is the nation's only non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of all women through advocacy, research, and education. Founded in 1990, the Society brought to national attention the need for the appropriate inclusion of women in major medical research studies and the need for more information about conditions affecting women exclusively, disproportionately, or differently than men. The Society advocates increased funding for research on women's health; encourages the study of sex differences that may affect the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; promotes the inclusion of women in medical research studies; and informs women, providers, policy makers and media about contemporary women's health issues.

In 1999, the Women's Health Research Coalition was established by the Society to give a voice to scientists and researchers from across the country that are concerned and committed to improving women's health research. The Coalition now has more than 650 members, including leaders within the scientific community and medical researchers from many of the country's leading universities and medical centers, as well as leading voluntary health associations, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

The Society and the Coalition are committed to advancing the health status of women through the discovery of new and useful scientific knowledge. We strongly believe that appropriate funding of the FDA by Congress is critical for the Agency to function and to assure the American public of the safety of its food and drugs. However, as has been well documented, currently the FDA is endeavoring to catch up after years of flat funding to meet the needs of scientific growth, innovation and development, and adequate food and drug protection. Further, FDA is struggling to catch up to present-day needs in the area of information technology (IT).

Last year the FDA was awarded a \$325 million dollar increase to assist in revamping the Agency, as well as a one time investment of \$150 million in supplemental funding. This influx of funds was meant to address years of chronic under-funding; however, the Agency needs a continuous stream of funding to address the myriad of infrastructure, resources and IT issues resulting from the budget shortages it has faced in the past decade.

The Society urges Congress to provide the FDA with an increase of \$386 million, bringing the FDA's FY 2010 budget to \$2.425 billion. This funding increase will allow the FDA to continue rebuilding its infrastructure and addressing the shortage of resources as well as install IT systems that match the needs of the industries it is regulating and expectations of the American public.

Another important investment that must be taken into account at the FDA is the Office of Women's Health (OWH). OWH's women's health programs, often conducted with the Agency centers, are vital to maintaining focus on women's health within the FDA. They are critical to improved care and increased awareness of disease-specific impacts to women. For example, OWH ensures that sex and gender differences in the efficacy of drugs (such as metabolism rates), devices (sizes and functionality) and diagnostics are taken into consideration in reviews. To address OWH's growing list of priorities, the Society recommends that Congress support a \$7 million budget for OWH for FY 2010 within the budget for the FDA. In addition, we further recommend that the current budget levels not only increase in the future, but should never be less than the \$6 million that the office currently receives.

#### **FDA Information Technology Systems**

The FDA is tasked with guarding the safety, efficacy, and security of human drugs, biological products, and medical devices. However, as was stated by the Science Board Report, requested by former Commissioner von Eschenbach, FDA's IT systems were inefficient and incapable of handling the current demands placed on the Agency, thus preventing the FDA from fulfilling its mission. Equipment is outdated, often unsupported by maintenance, and regularly breaks down. FDA's IT system, a system which needs to function 24/7, simply cannot keep up with current scientific data and market trends. This will only continue to worsen as servers' age beyond usefulness, and serviceability and email networks fail multiple times per day.

Additionally, the new Obama Administration is seeking to pass an overhaul of the nation's healthcare system. This reform is likely to include further advances to electronic health records and other IT innovations which will place an even greater burden on the FDA, among other agencies, to function within those advanced IT systems and networks.

The antiquated nature of the IT systems also makes the agency unable to conduct safety analyses for product marketing applications, track the natural history and disease models for rare disorders, and access huge amounts of clinical data. The creation of a central database must happen to provide for a system query to a centralized repository for all relevant facts about a certain product including where, when and how the product was made. Such a uniform centralized database will be relevant for all information stored across agencies, so as to maximize

functionality not only of FDA's data but of expected research and analysis needed by the American public.

Currently, the FDA receives large volumes of information in applications from drug manufacturers for review and evaluation. FDA reviewers must manually comb through the submitted drug trial reports and digital data in as many as twelve formats to evaluate a new drug's safety and effectiveness. Frequently reviewers must handpick data manually from stacks of paper reports and craft their own data comparisons. This process is time consuming, makes the review process less efficient, and is error-prone and delays access to important information. Scientific and medical advances are occurring rapidly and the public needs and deserves access to the most recent and accurate information regarding their health. It is time Congress recognize that the Agency must utilize up-to-date information technology and that it sorely needs the resources to maintain them.

The Society believes that the Agency and/or the FDA's Office of Women's Health should be able to track women or men and other subpopulations in all clinical trials before them and they are currently not able to do so. The FDA should be able to know how many women are in studies (both by recruitment and retention rates). This should be an immediate goal of any new IT system upgrade at the Agency in conjunction with the adoption of uniform data standards from which to pull the data and as part of the shift to an automated, electronic filing system.

Estimations have shown that it would take \$200 million (\$40 million/year) over the course of 5 years to begin the process of improving the IT system. Congress must address past shortfalls to FDA and provide it a \$386 million increase to begin IT transformation and many other improvements.

#### **Office of Women's Health**

OWH at the FDA, established in 1994, plays a critical role in women's health, both within and outside the Agency, supporting sex- and gender-based research, areas in which the Society has long been a proponent. OWH provides scientific and policy expertise on sex and gender sensitive regulatory and oversight issues; endeavors to correct sex and gender disparities in the areas for which the FDA is responsible – drugs, devices, and biologics; and monitors women's health priorities, providing both leadership and an integrated approach across the FDA. Despite inadequate funding, OWH provides all women with invaluable tools for their health.

Each year OWH, with little difficulty, exhausts its tiny budget. OWH's pamphlets are the most requested of any documents at the government printing facility in New Mexico. Last year more than 5.6 million pamphlets are distributed to women across the Nation including target populations such as Hispanic communities, seniors and low-income citizens. Further, the Office attends over 125 meetings per year to exhibit, to present scientific posters and oral presentations, and to chair sessions. Despite its \$1 million increase the office received last year, additional funding is needed so OWH may continue its present work on current projects, but expand and develop future projects.

**It is absolutely critical for Congress to take action now to help preserve the vital functions of OWH and to ensure that its small budget is dedicated to the resource needs of the office and to the projects and programs and research it funds.**

Since its beginning, OWH has funded high quality scientific research to serve as the foundation for Agency activities that improve women's health. To date, OWH has funded over 100 research projects with approximately \$19.9 million intramural grants, supporting projects within the FDA that address knowledge gaps or set new directions for sex and gender research. Extramural contracts leverage a wealth of expertise and other resources outside the FDA to provide insight on regulatory questions pertinent to women's health. All contracts and grants are awarded through a competitive process. A large number of these studies are published and appear in peer reviewed journals.

As part of its educational outreach efforts to consumers, OWH works closely with women's advocacy and health professional organizations to provide clarity on the results of the Women's Health Initiative. Due to OWH efforts, an informational fact sheet about menopause and hormones and a purse-sized questionnaire to review with the doctor were distributed to national and local print, radio, and Internet advertisements. OWH's website, to date, has received over three million hits to download campaign materials.

Further, OWH's website serves as a vital tool for consumers and is constantly updated to include new and important health information. The website provides free, downloadable fact sheets on over 40 different illnesses, diseases, and health related issues. Recently OWH has completed medication charts on seven chronic diseases, which are unique within the Agency. These charts list all the medications that are prescribed and available for each disease. This information is ideal for women to use in talking to their doctors, pharmacists or nurses about their treatment options.

OWH continues to improve the health of women through new research initiatives. Most recently, they have collaborated with Pharmacy Choice, Inc. to create a web portal solely dedicated to FDA consumer health education materials, providing access to fact sheets and medication guides.

#### **OWH and Sex Differences Research**

Scientists have long known of the anatomical differences between men and women, but only within the past decade have they begun to uncover significant biological and physiological differences. Sex differences have been found everywhere from the composition of bone matter and the experience of pain, to the metabolism of certain drugs and the rate of neurotransmitter synthesis in the brain. Sex-based biology, the study of biological and physiological differences between men and women, has revolutionized the way that the scientific community views the sexes, with even more information is forthcoming as a result of the sequencing of the X chromosome. The evidence is overwhelming, and as researchers continue to find more and complex biological differences, they gain a greater understanding of the biological and physiological composition of both sexes.

Much of what is known about sex differences is the result of observational studies, or is

descriptive evidence from studies that were not designed to obtain a careful comparison between females and males. The Society has long recognized that the inclusion of women in study populations by itself was insufficient to address the inequities in our knowledge of human biology and medicine, and that only by the careful study of sex differences at all levels, from genes to behavior, would science achieve the goal of optimal health care for both men and women. Many sex differences are already present at birth, whereas others develop later in life. These differences play an important role in disease susceptibility, prevalence, time of onset and severity and are evident in cancer, obesity, heart disease, immune dysfunction, mental health disorders, and other illnesses. Physiological and hormonal fluctuations may also play a role in the rate of drug metabolism and effectiveness of response in females and males. This research is supported and encouraged by the Office of Women's Health within the Agency. OWH directly works with the various centers to advance the science in this area, collaborating on programs, projects, and research.

Building upon sex differences research, the Society encourages the establishment of drug-labeling requirements that ensure labels include language about differences experienced by women and men. Furthermore, we advocate for research on the comparative effectiveness of drugs with specific emphasis on data analysis by sex. When available, this information should be on labels.

Our country's drug development process has succeeded in delivering new and better medications to ensure the health of both women and men. However, the requirement that the data acquired during research of a new drug's safety and effectiveness be analyzed as a function of sex or that information about the ways drugs may differ in various populations (e.g., women requiring a lower dosage because of different rates of absorption or chemical breakdown) be included in prescription drug labels and other patient educational and instructional materials is generally not enforced.

The Society believes the opportunity to present this information to consumers is now. Sex differences data discovered from clinical trials can be directly related to the medical community and to consumers through drug labeling and packaging inserts and other forms of alerts. As part of advancing the need to analyze and report sex differences, the Society encourages the FDA to continue adequately addressing the need for accurate drug labeling in order to identify important sex and gender differences, as well as to ensure that appropriate data analysis of post-market surveillance reporting for these differences is placed in the hands of physicians and ultimately the patient.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we thank you and this Committee for its strong record of support for the FDA and women's health and your commitment to OWH. We recommend that you **increase the overall FY10 budget for the FDA by \$386 million**, so that it may dramatically improve upon current operations while also rebuilding its IT infrastructure. Secondly, we urge you to **allocate \$7 million for the Office of Women's Health for FY 2010**, and to ensure that future budget appropriations for the OWH are never below current funding levels. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build a stronger and healthier future for all Americans.

**Testimony of**  
**Andrea Johnson, Director of Forest Campaigns**  
**of the**  
**Environmental Investigation Agency**  
**before the**  
**Committee on Appropriations,**  
**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,**  
**and Related Agencies**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**April 22, 2009**

Chairwoman DeLauro and Members of the Subcommittee, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) is grateful for this opportunity to provide written testimony related to the need for appropriations to implement, enforce and disseminate information concerning the new provisions of the U.S. Lacey Act (Section 8204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-246). We write to request your \$5.5 million in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to allow the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the Department of Agriculture to implement its new responsibilities under the recently passed amendments to the Lacey Act regarding illegally harvested timber.

On May 22, amendments to the Lacey Act passed as Section 8204 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. These amendments make it unlawful for any person to “import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase” illegally harvested wood and wood products into the U.S. – making ours the first country in the world to prohibit commerce in illegal wood. The United States has thus become a leader in tackling a complex global environmental problem with strong ramifications for climate change, and it is critical that we implement this law to the fullest extent possible in order to realize the benefits it can have for forest governance and protection.

Prior to this law, the United States—as the world’s largest consumer of wood products—had played a key role in illegal logging. Illegal logging, defined here as the harvesting, transporting, processing or trading of wood in contravention of national and international laws, plagues the global forest products industry. The criminal wood trade transpires in a number of ways, from logging in protected areas or national parks, to over-harvesting or disobeying cutting permit prescriptions, to avoiding government tax and royalty payments. Roughly one-third of hardwood products traded globally are thought to be of suspicious origin and 10% of U.S. wood-based imports are sourced

from areas of high risk for illegal wood export<sup>1</sup>. While systemically illegal forest harvesting is mostly relegated to developing and transitional economies marked by poor national governance and corruption, much of this wood enters the global market and is driven by consumer economies. The United States, as the largest forest products consumer in the world, imports 20% of global forest product exports and is a significant importer of “emerging market” wood where illegal logging is at its worst. American consumers are unwittingly complicit in driving illegal logging overseas.

Furthermore, given that nearly 25 percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions are a result of deforestation, the Lacey Act amendments-if sufficiently appropriated-ean play an important role in underpinning efforts to reduce climate change. The climate change link has been recognized by President Obama himself, whose campaign environmental platform stated that the passage of the Lacey Act amendments “would make foreign companies much less likely to engage in massive, illegal deforestation in other countries. Saving these endangered forests preserves a major source of carbon sequestration.”

#### **Background on Illegal Logging**

From an environmental perspective, illegal logging contributes to uncontrolled deforestation and degradation; each year we permanently lose 50 million square miles of forest, roughly the size of Louisiana, to non-forest land uses of lesser environmental value. Forests, in protecting wildlife and fish habitat, biodiversity, soil, water and air quality, play an irreplaceable role in ecological and human health. Illegal logging jeopardizes these values.

Illegal logging has been associated with a number of separate but indirectly related natural resource crises such as wildlife smuggling, damaging floods in deforested watersheds, the criminal setting of large-scale forest fires for the purpose of land conversion to monoculture commodities such as palm oil, and the building of non-sanctioned and poorly designed road systems throughout tropical ecosystems. These serious environmental issues are oftentimes accompanied by even more serious social issues. Over 50 million indigenous people live and depend on forests for their livelihood and cultural identity. Native customary land rights, whether communal or otherwise, for hunting, gathering fishing, and farming are put at risk by black market timber traffickers. Competition over resources sometimes results in violence and human rights violations. In many developing

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<sup>1</sup> No Questions Asked. EIA 2008. Available at [www.eia-global.org/lacey](http://www.eia-global.org/lacey).



economies where gazetting of land and legal establishment of land tenure are incomplete, local communities and indigenous groups are especially challenged with defending their land and forest rights. Poor forest governance contributes both to environmental and social degradation.

For some, even more alarming than these environmental and social impacts are the economic repercussions of the illegal logging trade. Illegal logs can be bought at half the price of legal timber in certain regions, artificially depressing global wood prices by 7-16%. The World Bank estimates that illegal logging costs the forest industry over \$10 billion per year and governments an additional \$5 billion annually. In the United States alone, the domestic forest product industry loses approximately \$1 billion a year in export opportunity costs and undervalued sales. In an industry where wood purchases comprise up to 40% of the cost of production, these losses represent a significant hit on margin.

The myriad impacts of illegal logging are clearly demonstrated in the case of Indonesia, where the forest products industry accounts for 20% of the nation's non-energy exports. Even the most conservative estimates indicate that over 60% of Indonesia's natural hardwood production is illegitimate. The country is losing forests at an unprecedented level, with nearly 7,800 square miles disappearing annually. Most of its tropical lowland forests are expected to be cut over within the next decade, jeopardizing the thousands of endemic species which inhabit them, and the long-term survival of some of the most charismatic fauna in the world such as the endangered tiger, Asian elephant, Sumatran rhinoceros, and orangutan. Valuable tropical tree stands are cut unsustainably and are rapidly replaced with acacia and palm oil monocultures, leading to a decrease in tropical timber wood supply, a simplification of the forest products economy and significant opportunity costs to national economic development. Additionally, the Indonesian government is deprived of over one third of its potential forest industry revenues in unpaid taxes and fails to collect on \$650 million annually in reforestation fund repayments and royalties alone. Losses of potential revenue translate to lost opportunity for sustainable economic development. Clearly Indonesia is suffering on several levels as a result of the unlawful timber trade. And, despite the country's attempts to control illegal logging, the massive ongoing profits generated by international market forces have continued to overwhelm the government's capacity to better govern its forests and enforce its laws.

### **The Lacey Act and Its Early Impacts**

The Lacey Act amendments passed with overwhelming congressional, industry, labor, and environmental organizational support. The amendments make it unlawful to trade wood products or other plants taken in violation of the laws of either a U.S. state or a foreign country and establishes strong incentives for companies to ask the right questions about their wood sources. The Lacey Act is already leading to a systemic shift in the practices of retailers, importers, manufacturers and logging companies. Companies and governments have expressed support of the U.S.'s new ban on trade in illegally sourced plants and plant products and are gearing up to comply.

U.S. action is also serving to prod other industrial nations to fulfill their commitments to combat illegal logging. The European Union's work on illegal timber imports has been energized considerably by the Lacey Act. According to one European expert involved in negotiations, "The revision of the Lacey Act demonstrated that the U.S. is willing to shoulder its responsibilities as a consumer of potentially illegal wood from around the world, and it is already clear that the Act is generating a swell of private sector support for credible schemes that demonstrate the legality of timber. In parallel the European Union is negotiating a series of bilateral partnership agreements with countries in Asia and Africa which will commit the parties to importing and licensing only legal products respectively – agreements which, it is hoped, will be able to deliver exactly the sort of robust mechanism for legality verification that can give companies in both the EU and US confidence that they are making responsible buying decisions."<sup>2</sup>

If implemented effectively, the new law is expected to help American forest product companies compete fairly in the global marketplace and deter the destructive impacts of illegal logging to forests in developing countries.

Companies' responses to the Lacey Act have made clear that the amendment will necessitate change in their practices. When 48 NGOs and industry associations join together in a statement about pragmatic Lacey implementation, "united in our strong belief that more needs to be done to address illegal logging, a problem which has serious global environmental and economic consequences," it's clear that this law matters.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Jade Saunders, Policy Analyst, FLEGT Facility, European Forestry Institute.

<sup>3</sup> 14 October, 2008 letter to implementing agencies.

The implementation process is not without its growing pains, as the private sector and the government learn from each other about the realities of enforcing and implementing such a significant new law.

Yet the increased awareness of the need for transparency, risk management and legal sourcing in a global economy is precisely the objective of the Lacey Act.

**Moving Forward: What the Lacey Act needs to maximize its effectiveness**

The Department of Justice and USAID have been able to organize efforts in a few key producer countries to communicate the Lacey Act internationally, including Indonesia, and have been invited to participate in other events organized by civil society or other institutions. However, for the Lacey Act to be leveraged for maximum effectiveness, dissemination efforts with government agencies, private sector and civil society in wood producer countries must be strengthened and broadened. Moreover, for the law to be most effective, training and outreach efforts on the legal requirements as well as on wood identification, tracking, and risk assessment is needed both within relevant U.S. agencies and within the relevant agencies of major wood producing and trans-shipping countries thought to be at risk for exporting illegal wood products. Laboratory research is needed on these same issues of identification and tracking, in order to (1) create an effective enforcement strategy for U.S. officials and their counterparts, and (2) create tools that can modernize and assist the private sector in cleaning up its supply chains in the years ahead.

The Lacey Act is empowering communities and civil society around the world in their efforts to combat illegal logging. It provides a critical new tool to bring elusive international criminals to justice. Proper implementation and enforcement of the Lacey Act will not be simple but the law is changing business as usual and sending signals into the global marketplace that the U.S. will no longer support illegal and destructive business practices. We urge you to allocate the amount recommended above to ensure that this critical new law is able to have the impact we believe it can over forest governance worldwide.

Thank you.

For more information please view [www.eia-global.org/lacey](http://www.eia-global.org/lacey).

Contact Anne Middleton ([anne@eia-international.org](mailto:anne@eia-international.org)) with any questions.

Statement for the Record  
Submitted by  
Bradley Merrill Thompson  
General Counsel  
Combination Products Coalition  
to the  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations

April 7, 2009

My name is Bradley Merrill Thompson, and I am General Counsel to the Combination Products Coalition (CPC). The CPC is pleased to submit this statement for the record in support of the FY 2010 budget for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In developing the FY 2010 appropriations bill, the CPC strongly encourages this Subcommittee to provide sufficient resources to support the current regulatory process to continue as well as enhance the FDA's ability for expanded policy development activities as it relates to combination products.

The CPC is a group of leading drug, biological product, and medical device manufacturers with substantial experience and interest in the combination products area. One of the principal goals of our organization is to work collaboratively with the FDA on issues affecting combination products, in order to advance our common missions of providing the best possible health care for patients. Because of our diverse, cross-industry membership, we think the CPC brings a broad and unique perspective to issues affecting combination products.

Combination products – products that involve the convergence of two or more FDA-regulated articles (i.e. drugs, medical devices, and biological products) – represent some of the most promising areas in advancing patient care. Patients suffering from cancer, heart disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes and other serious diseases and conditions have already benefited from combination products. And we believe there are many more beneficial combination products to come.

Further, the scientific technologies involved in these cutting-edge combination products are among today's most advanced – nanotechnology, genomics, molecular diagnostics, tissue engineering, stem cell research, and more. In addition to these scientific developments, just the convergence of regulated articles foster novel approaches to treatment and diagnosis – the combinations allow the best of all worlds to confront today's health problems.

Industry estimates reflect this growth and development. In 2004, the combination products industry was estimated at \$5.9 billion and expected to grow by 10% through 2009. Another estimate put the market for drug-device combinations at \$11.5 billion by 2010. The numbers on individual segments are also significant. For example, recently the United States' demand

for nanomedicines was forecasted to expand annually by 17%, reaching \$43 billion in 2012 and \$85 billion by 2017.

As the FDA has recognized, these increases in the discovery, research, and marketing of combination products has and will continue to substantially impact the types and numbers of products falling under the FDA's regulatory authority. Indeed, the most recently published performance report from the FDA's Office of Combination Products (OCP) shows that three key activities have steadily climbed, reaching their highest point since OCP's inception in 2002 – the number of combination products submitted for agency review, inter-agency consultation requests, and combination product assignment requests.<sup>1</sup>

In spite of this growth, the resources FDA has been able to devote to combination products has remained nearly static. As a consequence, the OCP understandably has had to focus primarily on its regulatory responsibilities, which the CPC believes the Office has done extremely well. However, the resource constraints have left little in terms of both personnel and financial resources for advancing policy development in important areas like clinical research, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), and marketing submissions for combination products.

To give patients access to innovative products, manufacturers need clarity and predictability on these important policy development issues. Further, because of the rapid pace of technology, combination product manufacturers need early, real-time access to FDA personnel to inform development and manufacturing issues for the most cutting-edge products. A more active policy development process with respect to combination products would help provide the clarity and regulatory predictability the combination products industry needs to continue to provide patients with safer and more effective products.

The CPC recommends that this Subcommittee review the resources the FDA is allocating for combination products and consider ways in which the Subcommittee could support an increase in combination product policy development activities consistent with the overall budget for the FDA. Such efforts would help provide the clarity and predictability the industry needs to continue to provide patients with safer and more effective health care.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these views to the Subcommittee.

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<sup>1</sup> FDA, FY 2007 Performance Report To Congress for the Office of Combination Products



**Friends of Agricultural Research – Beltsville, Inc. (FAR-B)**  
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 Beltsville, MD 20704-1061  
<http://www.far-b.org>

Dedicated to Promoting the Research and Education Mission of the Henry A. Wallace  
 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland

**Testimony for the  
 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
 Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 U. S. House of Representatives**

**Submitted by Vernon G. Pursel, President, Friends of Agricultural Research – Beltsville  
 on April 21, 2009**

Madam Chair, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to present our statement regarding funding for the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and especially for the Agency's flagship research facility, the Henry A. Wallace **Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), in Maryland.** Our organization - **Friends of Agricultural Research - Beltsville**—promotes the Center's current and long-term agricultural research, outreach, and educational missions.

Before going to the heart of our testimony, please allow us to note for the record that during FY-2010 the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center will mark a great historical milestone, a milestone to celebrate the many great and small accomplishments that BARC research has contributed to the nation's agricultural bounty and to the overall march of scientific progress. **A full century will have passed since 1910, the year research in Beltsville began with the assembly of a dairy cattle herd for research purposes. The ensuing BARC story is by all rights a national story - a story of world-class accomplishment.** BARC Director Joseph Spence and his staff are planning a series of worthy events to commemorate the centennial year.

The Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville (FAR-B) is honored to be both a participant in the centennial planning process and a contributor to coming events. We would be pleased, Madam Chair, **to answer any questions, to collect any information or citations the Subcommittee might wish regarding the centennial or our testimony.**

**We now turn to the specifics of our testimony for FY-2010:**

**Under-Funded Salary Growth. \$1,700,000.**

First, we appreciate the restoration of items that were recommended for termination in the president's proposed budget for FY-09. We would hope that the FY-10 budget does not identify

additional program terminations at BARC, and we would hope that there will be much needed funding increases. In the FY-09 budget, there was only about half of the needed funding for salary increases that went into effect at the beginning of the year. An unfortunate result of recent annual increases in Federal salaries - without offsetting funding increases— is a negative growth in funding available for discretionary spending on research. This situation has continued for several years now, and it has had a significant negative impact on ARS research.

**FAR-B strongly recommends funding adjustments to offset the almost yearly decline of net research funding resulting from under-funded salary increases.**

**Research Initiatives.**

While it is unclear at this time if the FY-10 budget includes funding for additional research at BARC, it is important to point out that BARC conducts many areas of research and that the research is of the highest national priority. BARC research presents many compelling opportunities to reward agriculture, the environment, and the consumer.

**Food Safety – \$500,000.**

The Beltsville Area recently established the largest single food safety unit in ARS. This research unit will focus on a number of issues, including safety of fruits and vegetables and food safety issues related to organic agriculture. The ability exists at BARC to raise crops and animals under farm conditions, and then to process, store, and package the resulting products. A unique feature of the food safety research program at BARC is the ability to propose and test interventions that greatly reduce pathogen exposure in foods, and ultimately in people.

**Genomic Prediction – \$1,500,000.**

The promise of understanding the genome of plants and animals is being fully exploited at Beltsville. In groundbreaking research conducted here, scientists have been able to quickly and accurately identify dairy bulls that will produce daughters capable of producing the most milk. Now a simple test at birth can predict at twice the accuracy and at a cost of about \$250 the potential of a bull to sire high producing cows. Traditionally, bull prediction methods have required farmers to obtain production records of 50 to 100 daughters per bull to determine his genetic merit, at a cost up to \$50,000 per bull. The potential for developing and expanding this breakout technology is huge and at great savings to dairy farmers and consumers alike.

**Climate Change – \$1,500,000.**

BARC has truly unique growth chambers that can measure and observe plant growth at every stage from root to stem, and under every conceivable atmospheric condition. BARC is using these chambers to measure the effects of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and changes in environmental temperatures. Studies are underway not only on agronomically important crops, but also on invasive weeds. Research shows that environmental changes may enhance the rapid growth of invasive plants, thus threatening to exacerbate already costly problems for American agriculture.

**Obesity Prevention – \$500,000.**

Obesity negatively impacts the health and productivity of the American public. Moreover, obesity comes with greatly increased risk of chronic diseases that dramatically add to the economic costs of health care. The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC) is researching barriers and facilitators to help the American public follow Federal dietary guidelines. A major research emphasis is to prevent obesity through a better understanding of why people make the food choices they do. This research also will help USDA design and implement more effective food assistance programs.

**Waste Utilization – \$1,000,000.**

Because it is a working farm and has research scientists who have expertise in animal science, conversion technologies, and environmental science, BARC is an ideal place to study the utilization of farm-generated waste products. Farm-generated waste products can be environmentally harmful, have little or no value to the farmer, and disposal can be costly. Work at Beltsville has led to the effective development of technologies and products that take waste by-products and convert them to valuable new products. Examples include biofuels and plastics made without petroleum.

**Trade Enhancement and Global Competitiveness – \$2,000,000.**

BARC maintains and expands the Federal government's unique collections of materials and organisms that are of utmost importance in identifying pests and for ensuring that unwanted pests are prevented from entering the U.S. and producing destruction of animals and plants of economic importance. These unique and irreplaceable collections include the Germplasm Resource Information Network, and invaluable reference collections of insects, nematodes, parasites, and fungi. These world-class collections attract leading experts from around the world who study and use them for their own purposes. The collections are absolutely critical to identifying and preventing exotic pest problems from entering the United States through imports or by international travelers as well as demonstrating that our exports are safe. The continued availability of research in this general area of systematics is essential for trade, for homeland security, and for the protection of American agriculture.

**Chesapeake Bay Improvement – \$500,000.**

BARC scientists are working with farmers on Maryland's Eastern Shore to learn how to improve on-farm conservation practices that will improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The research goals—targeting the entire range of Eastern Shore farming practices—include reducing fertilizer and pesticide usage. A central goal is to create agronomic and animal waste management practices that will reduce fertilizer usage and control pollution runoff. Biocontrol studies are searching out ways to minimize the need for pesticides. Scientists also are using advanced remote sensing and hydrological technologies to protect the health of the Chesapeake watershed.

**FAR-B strongly recommends continued funding for these high-value, critically needed research initiatives.**



**Facilities. \$30 Million.**

Ongoing facility needs at BARC are a reflection of the age of many of the buildings and infrastructure at BARC. As the program and the number of employees has decreased over time due to lack of funding, the burden of maintaining a large research facility has taken its toll in terms of routine and ongoing maintenance. It is essential that additional funding be provided for general facility maintenance and that plans for facility consolidation move forward.


With talk of greatly increased expenditures of the Federal government for facilities projects that are "shovel-ready", it is our hope that the Beltsville Area will be the recipient of a significant amount of those funds. Several projects at BARC are fully designed and ready for construction to begin almost immediately. These include the final phase of construction of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC), in which existing building 307 will be gutted and rebuilt. This will allow BARC to relocate the entire BHNRC- now spread out at three separate locations - to one location and also free up space for other needed research activities. The completion of this important building renovation is urgently needed at BARC because many of the proposed space consolidations, which will greatly reduce the operating costs at the Center, are dependent on this project.

Other projects that are fully designed and ready to go include three projects at the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA). The relocation of the USNA entrances from R Street and New York Avenue to Bladensburg Road is a major project that needs to move forward and will greatly improve public access while relieving traffic congestion on New York Avenue. Finally, the trash abatement project for the cleanup of Hickey Run needs to move forward. Rain runoff produces a great volume of trash as the result of inadequate storm water control by the District of Columbia. This trash accumulates on the property of the USNA. This project is urgently needed to prevent trash from washing onto the arboretum grounds, which now occurs with almost any significant rainfall. This project is also critically importance environmentally and for helping clean up the Anacostia River. The project has been completely designed and, while funds have been appropriated to the DC government and to ARS for this project, funding is not adequate to start construction on this project.

**FAR-B strongly recommends funding to complete these long delayed, urgently needed facility improvements.**

Madam Chair, that concludes our statement. We again thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony and for your interest and support.

Sincerely,



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Vernon G. Pursel, Ph.D.  
President

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Dorene Pasekoff, Coordinator  
St. John's United Church of Christ Organic Community Garden and Labyrinth  
St. John's United Church of Christ  
315 Gay Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

I urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to allocate \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the new pollinator research provision authorized in the 2008 farm bill.

Native and managed pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Today, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a host of other pests and pathogens, climate change, habitat loss, pesticide misuse, and other threats to the health and population of pollinators in North America could jeopardize the integrity of our food supply and healthy wildlife ecosystems.

As an organic, urban agriculture practitioner, I depend upon native pollinators to create the crops which feed myself, my neighbors and the clients of Phoenixville Area Community Services Food Banks. With CCD, "wild" honeybees have been removed from the population and small-scale growers like myself are dependent on native pollinators. While I do all I can to increase the numbers of native pollinators, it would be helpful to have more research so that we can be sure we are doing the right things for the right pollinators at the right time.

Investments in honey bee and pollinator research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been stagnant for years and continue to fall far short of identified needs. The requested funding will underwrite critical unmet honey bee and pollinator research priorities that can lead to scientific outcomes urgently needed to address pressing health challenges plaguing honey bees and threatening the economic viability of those who practice agriculture, regardless of the size of their farm.

Thank you for your consideration.

**National Organic  
Coalition**



April 22, 2009

Testimony of

Steven Etko

Legislative Coordinator, National Organic Coalition

submitted to the

House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

regarding

Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Requests

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Steven Etka. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the National Organic Coalition (NOC) to detail our requests for fiscal year 2010 funding for several USDA marketing, research, and conservation programs of importance to organic agriculture.

The National Organic Coalition (NOC) is a national alliance of organizations working to provide a voice for farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, consumers, cooperative retailers and others involved in organic agriculture. The current members of NOC are the Beyond Pesticides, Center for Food Safety, Equal Exchange, Food and Water Watch, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, National Cooperative Grocers Association, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Northeast Organic Farming Association- Interstate Policy Council, Rural Advancement Foundation International -USA, and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

We urge the Subcommittee's strong consideration of the following funding requests for various USDA programs of importance to organic farmers, marketers and consumers:

**USDA/ Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)**

***National Organic Program- Request: \$8 million***

In Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007, funding of \$2.026 was appropriated for the National Organic Program within the AMS budget. For Fiscal Year 2008, in keeping with the President's budget request for the program, \$3.18 million was appropriated for the National Organic Program. The NOP appropriation grew again in Fiscal Year 2009 to a funding level of \$3.867 million

Sales of organic food and beverages continue to grow at an average rate of 20 percent per year in this country. While funding levels for USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) have grown in recent years, the growth in resources for this regulatory agency has not kept pace with the market growth of the organic sector.

For NOP to be a credible regulator and enforcer of the USDA organic label, resources must increase significantly, and long overdue policies must be established within NOP to ensure consistency in the standards, transparency in the standards setting process, and proper enforcement. If the funding for this program does not expand significantly to meet the growing needs, we fear that the important work of the NOP will suffer, the integrity of the organic standards will be jeopardized, and public confidence in the USDA organic label will be eroded.

Specifically, the Members of the National Organic Coalition urge the Committee to fund the National Organic Program at \$8 million for FY 2010, as authorized by Section 10303 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, and to include language directing NOP to undertake the following critical activities, as established by the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990.

1) Establish a Peer Review Panel, as called for in Section 2117 of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA)

of 1990, and Section 205.509 of USDA's own organic regulations; to provide oversight of USDA's accreditation process for organic certifying agents.

2) Reinstate funding for independent, scientific reviews of substances proposed for use in organic agriculture, as required by OFPA. Historically, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) has had the benefit of independent scientific reviews, called Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) reviews, of any substance proposed for use in organic agriculture, to make sure that its use is compatible with the purposes of OFPA. However, in recent years, USDA has denied funding for these independent TAP reviews, leaving the NOSB with little information on which to base these important decisions.

3) Make the NOP budget fully transparent and accountable to the public, by publishing the details of the budget on the NOP website.

4) Finalize the pending pasture rule for organic livestock, and initiate rulemaking to address the issue of the origin of livestock.

**USDA**  
**ORGANIC DATA INITIATIVES**

Authorized by Section 7407 of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Organic Production and Marketing Data Initiative states that the "Secretary shall ensure that segregated data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products is included in the ongoing baseline of data collection regarding agricultural production and marketing." Section 10302 of the Farm, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amends the provision further to provide mandatory funding, and to provide further authorization for \$5 million annually in discretionary funds for this effort.

As the organic industry matures and grows at a rapid rate, the lack of national data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products has been an impediment to further development of the industry and to the effective functioning of many organic programs within USDA. The organic data collection and analysis effort at USDA has made significant strides in recent years, but remains in its infancy. Because of the multi-agency nature of data collection within USDA, organic data collection and analysis must also be undertaken by several different agencies within the Department. We are requesting the full \$5 million to be appropriated for this initiative, to be divided between the three main data collection sub-agencies as follows:

<b><u>Economic Research Service (ERS)</u></b> <i>Collection and Analysis of Organic Economic Data</i>	<b>Request: \$1.5 million</b>
<b><u>Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)</u></b> <i>Organic Price Collection</i>	<b>Request: \$3 million</b>
<b><u>National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS)</u></b> <i>Organic Production Data</i>	<b>Request: \$500,000</b>
<b><u>USDA/ CSREES</u></b> <i>Organic Transitions Program</i>	<b>Request: \$5 million</b>

The Organic Transition Program, authorized by Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Reform Act (AREERA) for Integrated Research Programs, is a research grant program that helps farmers surmount some of the challenges of organic production and marketing. As the organic industry grows, the demand for research on topics related to organic agriculture is experiencing significant growth as well. The benefits of this research are far-reaching, with broad applications to all sectors of U.S. agriculture, even beyond the organic sector. Yet funding for organic research is minuscule in relation to the relative economic importance of organic agriculture and marketing in this nation. Starting in FY09, the program has been administered in combination with the CSREES Water Quality integrated research program, to study the watershed impacts of organic systems.

The Organic Transition Program was funded at \$2.1 million in Fiscal Year 2003, \$1.9 million in FY 2004, \$1.88 million for both FY 2005 and 2006, \$1.855 million for FY 2007 and 2008, and 1.842 million in FY 2009. Given the rapid increase in demand for organic foods and other products, and the growing importance of organic agriculture, this important research program should be growing instead of contracting. Therefore, we are requesting that the program be funded at \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2010.

**USDA/CSREES / Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**

**Request: Report language on Conventional/Classical Plant and Animal Breeding**

In recent decades, public resources for classical plant and animal breeding have dwindled, while resources have shifted toward genomics and biotechnology, with a focus on a limited set of major crops and breeds. This problem has been particularly acute for organic and sustainable farmers, who seek access to germplasm well suited to their unique cropping systems and their local environment.

Ever year since Fiscal Year 2005, the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee has included report language raising concerns about this problem, and urging CSREES to give greater consideration to research needs related to classical plant and animal breeding, when setting priorities within the National Research Initiative. Despite this report language, research proposals for classical plant and animal breeding that have sought NRI funding in the recent years have been consistently declined.

In Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the National Research Initiative was merged with the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems to become the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Congress included language within the AFRI to make "conventional" plant and animal breeding a priority for AFRI research grants, consistent with the concerns expressed by Appropriations Committee in the three preceding appropriations cycles.

When CSREES released its AFRI Program Announcement in December of 2008, it invited research proposals on conventional/classical plant and animal breeding. However, when researchers submitted their initial letters of intent spelling out their research topics in the arena, they were nearly all rejected in the pre-proposal stage. Therefore, we are requesting that report language be added to the CSREES/AFRI section of the report, stating the following:

**"While the Committee is pleased that the new AFRI program language is now encouraging classical or conventional plant and animal breeding initiatives, we are concerned by the lack of progress in funding of actual projects in this research arena. The Committee urges USDA to**

make further progress by creating a clear, separate and on-going category of research funding for conventional/classical plant and animal breeding within AFRI, with adequate funding allocations to meet this critical and growing need.”

**USDA/CSREES**

***Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)***

**Request: \$25 million (research and education grants) and \$5 million (professional development grants)**

The SARE program has been very successful in funding on-farm research on environmentally sound and profitable practices and systems, including organic production. The reliable information developed and distributed through SARE grants have been invaluable to organic farmers. For Fiscal Year 2010, we are requesting \$25 million for research and education grants and \$5 million for professional development grants.

**USDA/Rural Business Cooperative Service**

***Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)***

**Request: \$3 million**

ATTRA, authorized by Section 6016 on the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, is a national sustainable agriculture information service, which provides practical information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, Extension agents, educators and others interested and active in sustainable agriculture. ATTRA interacts with the public, not only through its call-in service and website, but also provides numerous excellent publications written to help address some of the most frequently asked questions of farmers and educators. Much of the real-world information provided by ATTRA is extremely helpful to both the conventional and organic communities, and is available nowhere else. As a result, the growth in demand for ATTRA services has increased significantly, both through the website-based information services and through the growing requests for workshops. We are requesting \$3 million for ATTRA for Fiscal Year 2010.

**USDA/ARS**

***Organic Agricultural Systems Research***

**Request: Devote “fair share” of ARS research dollars, commensurate with organic’s retail market share (approximately \$33 million), to direct organic research.**

USDA research programs have not kept pace with the growth of organic agriculture in the marketplace. Although organic currently represents nearly 4 percent of total U.S. food retail market, the share of USDA research targeted to organic agriculture and marketing is significantly less. With regard to ARS specifically, efforts have been made to devote greater resources to organic research. The current total funding for direct organic projects within ARS is about \$14 million, about 1.5% of the ARS budget. Despite this progress, much more needs to be done in this area. We are requesting that a “fair share” of ARS expenditures (approximately \$33 million annually) be devoted to direct organic projects, using organic’s retail market share as a basis of comparison to the conventional sector. This should include the establishment of a clearinghouse for disseminating organic research information through the National Agricultural Library, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (NAL-AFSIC).

**USDA/ NRCS**

***Conservation Stewardship Program***

***USDA/ Rural Business Cooperative Service***

**Request: No Funding Limitation**



**Value-Added Producer Grants****Request: \$40 million**

The Conservation Security Program (authorized by Section 2001 of the 2002 farm bill) and the Value-Added Producer Grant (authorized by Section 6401 of the 2002 farm bill) have great potential to benefit organic and conventional producers in their efforts to conserve natural resources and to explore new, value-added enterprises as part of their operations. Unfortunately, while these programs were authorized to operate with mandatory funding, their usefulness has been limited by funding restrictions imposed through the annual appropriations process. We are urging that the Conservation Security Program be permitted to operate with unrestricted mandatory funding, and that the Value-Added Producer Grant Program receive an appropriation of \$40 million for FY 2009.

**Food and Nutrition Service/ WIC Program****Report Language: Removing Barriers of Access to Organic Foods for WIC recipients**

Despite the scientifically documented nutritional and health benefits of organic food, particularly for pregnant mothers and small children, many States have greatly limited or prohibited access to organic foods as part of the WIC program. Some of the barriers are explicit, whereby WIC recipient are expressly prohibited in some States from using their WIC certificates or vouchers for organic versions of WIC foods. Others barriers are indirect, such as rules that make it difficult for retail stores that carry organic foods from participating in the program. Therefore, we are requesting that report language be included in the Food and Nutrition Service section of the FY 2010 Appropriations report, such as:

***“The Committee is concerned about the number of States the have set up barriers within the WIC program to hinder or prohibit WIC recipients from purchasing organic food. The Committee strongly urges FNS to actively encourage States to remove barriers to the purchase of organic foods as part of the basic food instrument, and to understand the nutritional and health benefits of organic foods for the vulnerable populations served by this program.”***



**American Society of Agronomy | Crop Science Society of America | Soil Science Society of America**  
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Karl Glasener  
 Director of Science Policy  
 American Society of Agronomy  
 Crop Science Society of America  
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May 1, 2009 —BY E-mail to AG.Approp@mail.house.gov  
 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
 Agencies  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 Attention: Martha Foley

**RE: FY 2010 Appropriations—Support for Agricultural Research Service; Cooperative  
 State Research, Education and Extension Service; and Natural Resources Conservation  
 Service**

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The **American Society of Agronomy (ASA)**, **Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)**, and **Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)** are pleased to submit the following funding recommendations for FY 2010. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA understand the challenges the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee faces with the tight budget for FY 2010. We also recognize that the Agriculture Appropriations bill has many valuable and necessary components. We applaud the Subcommittee's efforts to fund mission-oriented, critical research through the **USDA -Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service**, its intramural research portfolio funded through the **Agricultural Research Service** as well as the conservation programs through the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**.

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are particularly grateful to the Subcommittee for funding the **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**, the new competitive grants program for research, extension, and education within USDA's **Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service** at \$201.5 million in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill. In FY 2010, at a time when our nation needs to respond rapidly to challenges which threaten our ability to safely produce and distribute food, feed, fuel, and fiber, we find that it is essential that to continue to build our competitive research programs. For this reason, we recommend funding **AFRI** at \$300 million in the FY 2010 agriculture appropriations bill. We believe that funding **AFRI** at this level would be a strong step in support of these important systems, enabling effective development and distribution of information which will achieve the dual goals of agricultural production and environmental stewardship, maximizing the benefits of agroecosystem processes.

For the **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA thank Congress for providing **ARS** with the much-needed investments (\$176 million) for buildings and facilities in

the '09 economic stimulus bill (Public Law 111-5). For FY 2010, we recommend a funding level of \$1,268 million or a 7% increase over the FY 2009 enacted funding level. The **ARS** ensures that our nation has a safe, reliable, and adequate supply of high quality food, feed, fiber and fuel.

For the **Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)**, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend a funding level of \$1,444 million for FY 2010, roughly an 18% increase over FY 2009.

For FY 2010 of the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support a 7% increase over FY 2009 enacted for a funding level of \$1,036 million.

With more than 25,000 members and certified professionals, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are the largest life science professional societies in the United States dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil sciences. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA play a major role in promoting progress in these sciences through the publication of quality journals and books, convening meetings and workshops, developing educational, training, and public information programs, providing scientific advice to inform public policy, and promoting ethical conduct among practitioners of agronomy and crop and soil sciences.

ASA and SSSA certified professionals—Certified Crop Advisers (CCA), Agronomists (CPAg) and Soil Scientists (CPSS)—are specialists who work in the field with farmers, providing technical advice about the agronomic practices—types and rates of fertilizer application, plant hybrid and variety selection, soil conservation, nutrient management, and integrated pest management—most appropriate to optimize crop yield and minimize environmental impact.

#### ***Agricultural Research Service (ARS)***

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA applaud the **Agricultural Research Services' (ARS)** ability to respond quickly to rapidly changing national needs. With **ARS's** 2,100 scientists located at 100 research locations accomplishes scientific discoveries that help solve problems in crop and livestock production and protection human nutrition, and ensure a sustainable interaction of agriculture and the environment. **ARS National Programs** focus on the importance, impact, and quality of **ARS** research in 1) Nutrition, Food Safety/Quality, 2) Animal Production and Protections, 3) Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, and 4) Crop Production and Protection. Increasingly, **ARS** through **Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA)** federal laboratories and businesses form partnerships that help move new technologies to the marketplace. These partnerships are especially important to leverage during a time when our nation's economy remains vulnerable and federal funding is constrained. Such cooperative research helps foster American businesses and enhances the position of the U.S. as a global leader in food, feed, fiber, and fuel production.

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that research from **ARS** programs and technology transfer ensures high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assesses the nutritional needs of Americans; helps to sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhances the natural resource base and the environment; and provides economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. Again, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend an **ARS** funding level of \$1,268 million for FY 2010, a 7% increase above the FY 2009 enacted.

**Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)**

**Hatch and McIntire-Stennis Formula Funding:** ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that the need has never been greater to enhance investment in *Hatch* and *McIntire-Stennis* formula funding. Therefore, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend that both *Hatch* and *McIntire-Stennis* receive a 10% increase over the FY 2009 enacted level of funding, bringing the combined funding level to \$258 million for FY 2010. If we are to maintain the research capacity at our nation's Land Grant Universities and Colleges of Agriculture necessary to keep American agriculture competitive, while recognizing the potential of our managed systems to provide beneficial ecosystem services, we need concerted investment in our institutions.

**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI):** ASA, CSSA, and SSSA strongly endorse a **49% increase in funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative**. The AFRI, established in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), is the successor to USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI) and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that funding **AFRI** at \$300 million in the FY 2010 agriculture appropriations bill (exclusive of any funding identified for Section 406 programs) will show a strong commitment to America's farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

**Bioenergy Feedstock Research:** ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support funding of the **Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative (Section 7207)** of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) at **\$25 million for FY 2010**. **Section 7207** is a new program which closes the critical research gap between fundamental biological discovery and the reliable expression of new traits in the field. The research and extension projects under **Section 7207** are critical to the future of the U.S., and will improve agricultural biomass production using field observations. This is a nearly priceless step in translation of basic research. Furthermore, we applaud Congress for including \$118 million in mandatory funding during the life of the FCEA for the **Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI)**. We are excited about the mandatory funding of the USDA portion of **BRDI** at \$28 million for FY 2010 and suggest that an additional \$10 million in discretionary funds be placed towards this critical program for FY 2010.

**Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Programs:** ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find the **SARE Professional Development Program** to be an effective program and support funding for the program at \$4.92 million for FY 2010. Additionally, we urge the Subcommittee to consider an increase in **SARE** funding to bring **SARE** funding to \$15.7 million for FY 2010.

**Higher Education:** ASA, CSSA, and SSSA urge the Subcommittee to fund the **Institution Challenge Grants** at \$6.22 million for FY 2010. We strongly support a FY 2010 level of \$4.24 million in funding for the **Graduate Fellowships Grants**; these grants enable us to train the next generation of scientific innovators.

**Cooperative Extension Service:** Extension forms a critical part of research, education and extension program integration, a feature unique to CSREES. Unfortunately, recently the **Smith Lever 3(b) and 3(c)** account has been flat-funded (in constant dollars this account has seen a gradual *erosion* in funding). ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support \$309 million in appropriations for

FY 2010, a \$20 million increase over FY 2009 enacted for the continuing education and outreach activities supported by *Smith-Lever Formula 3(b) & (c)*.

**New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE):** *eXtension* is a national web-based information and education delivery system that provides direct public access to science-based educational resources. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that internet-facilitated outreach through *eXtension* and other *New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE) programs* provide invaluable consolidation and streamlining of information. These communication technologies help to highlight appropriate management, expediting the voluntary adoption of best practices. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend a 10% increase in appropriation for FY 2010 for this program, bringing funding to \$1.65 million.

**Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program (Section 406):** *Section 406* was initially authorized in *Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998*. Since its inception this program has proven to be an indispensable part of water and pest management and numerous other issues. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support a funding increase of 7% for programs under *Section 406*, which would bring total funding to \$44.92 million. Furthermore, we strongly suggest that the *International Science and Education (ISE) Grants Program* also receive a 7% increase, bringing *ISE* funding to \$3.21 million for FY 2010, and increasing the funding of *total integrated activities* to \$60 million for FY 2010.

**Organic Farming Transition Program:** ASA, CSSA, and SSSA urge the Subcommittee to fund the *Organic Farming Transition Program* at \$1.97 million in FY 2010, an increase over FY 2009 of 7%.

***Natural Resources Conservation Service***

For FY 2010 of the *Natural Resources Conservation Service*, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support a 7% increase over FY 2009 enacted for a funding level of \$1,036 million.

**Conservation Security Program:** The *Conservation Security Program* provides financial and technical assistance to producers who advance the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA applaud Congress for passing the FCEA which keeps this important working lands conservation program as an uncapped mandatory program.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program:** The *Environmental Quality Incentives Program* provides technical assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, air, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support funding of this essential program at \$1,337 million for FY 2010.

***In Summary***

A balance of funding mechanisms, including intramural, competitive and formula funding, is essential to maintain the capacity of the United States to conduct both basic and applied agricultural research to improve crop and livestock quality, and deliver safe and nutritious food

products, while protecting and enhancing the nation's environment and natural resource base. In order to address these challenges and maintain our position in an increasingly competitive world, we must continue to support research, education and extension programs funded through the **Agricultural Research Service** and **Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service** and conservation programs supported by the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**. Congress must enhance funding for the programs to ensure that Americans have access to a safe and nutritious food supply and to provide for the next generation of research scientists, extension agents and educators. According to the USDA Economic Research Service (Agricultural Economic Report Number 735), publicly funded agricultural research has earned an annual rate of return of 35%. This rate of return suggests that additional allocation of funds to support research in the food and agricultural sciences would be highly beneficial to the U.S. economy. Finally, we must ensure support for CSREES-funded extension programs to guarantee that these important new tools and technologies reach and are utilized by producers and other stakeholders.

As you lead the Congress in deliberation on funding levels for agricultural research, extension, education and conservation programs, please consider **American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America** as supportive resources. We hope you will call on our membership and scientific expertise whenever the need arises. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our requests. For additional information or to learn more about the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America (ASA-CSSA-SSSA), please visit [www.agronomy.org](http://www.agronomy.org), [www.crops.org](http://www.crops.org) or [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org) or contact ASA-CSSA-SSSA Director of Science Policy Karl Glasener ([kglasener@agronomy.org](mailto:kglasener@agronomy.org), [kglasener@crop s.org](mailto:kglasener@crop s.org), or [kglasener@soils.org](mailto:kglasener@soils.org)) or 202-408-5382.

Written Statement of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Submitted to the  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
April 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to present our funding requests for the fiscal year 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is an alliance of national, regional and local grassroots farm, rural, and conservation organizations that together advocate for public policies that support the long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of agriculture, natural resources and rural communities. Below is a summary of our requests, followed by a brief rationale for each item.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

FY 09 Actual	\$14.4 M (research) + \$4.6 M (extension) = \$19.0 M
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$25 M + \$5 M = \$30 M

Organic Transitions Program

FY 09 Actual	\$1.8 M
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$5.0 M

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

FY 09 Actual	\$201.5 M (including at least \$60.5 M for integrated projects)
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$250 M (including at least \$75 million for integrated projects)

Farm Service Agency

Direct Farm Ownership and Operating Loans -- Program Levels

FY 09 Actual	\$222.3 M + \$575.1 M (+\$174 M in the stimulus bill = \$749 M)
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$350 M + \$750 M

Beginning Farmer Individual Development Account (IDA) Pilot Program

FY09 Actual	N/A
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$5 M

AMS, ERS, NASS

Organic Production and Marketing Data Initiative

FY 09 Actual	\$500,000 appropriated plus \$5 M one-time 2008 Farm Bill boost
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$5 M (\$3 M - AMS; \$1.5 M - ERS; \$0.5 M - NASS)

Rural Business and Cooperative Service

## Value-Added Producer Grants

FY 09 Actual	\$18.9 M
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$30 M

## Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

FY 09 Actual	no limitation on \$4 M in Farm Bill direct funding
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on Farm Bill \$4 M + \$26 M discretionary = \$30 M

## Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)

FY 09 Actual	\$2.6 M
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$3.0 M

## Rural Coop Development Grants

FY 09 Actual	\$5.9 M
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	\$8.25 M

General Provisions

## Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

FY 09 Actual	no limitation on \$18 M in Farm Bill direct funding
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on \$20 M in Farm Bill direct funding

## Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

FY 09 Actual	no limitation on \$18 M in Farm Bill direct funding
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on the \$19 M in Farm Bill direct funding

## Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

FY 09 Actual	no limitation on \$15 M in Farm Bill direct spending
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on \$20 M in Farm Bill direct spending

## Farmers' Market Promotion Program

FY 09 Actual	no limitation on \$5 M in Farm Bill direct funding
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on \$5 M in Farm Bill direct funding

## Conservation Security Program

FY 09	no limitation on farm bill direct funding
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on farm bill direct funding



## Wetlands Reserve Program

FY 09	no limitation on mandatory farm bill funding
USDA 10 Request	TBA
NSAC 10 Request	no limitation on direct farm bill funding

## CSREES Programs

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE). We urge you to support an appropriation of \$30 million in FY 10 for the SARE competitive grants program, divided among research and education grants (\$25 million) and extension and professional development grants (\$5 million). SARE has funded farmer-driven research, education, and extension initiatives into profitable, environmentally and socially sound practices for over twenty years. In FY 09, the SARE program was funded at \$19 million, just under a third of the \$60 million authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill. The FY 09 total includes \$14.4 million for research and education grants and \$4.6 million for extension and training grants. Unique opportunities will result from a significant funding increase to \$30 million in FY 10:

Trigger the authorized but unfunded federal-state matching grant program to leverage state and private money and build capacity at the state level. By law, the basic research and education portion of SARE must meet or surpass the \$15 million mark for the matching grants program to take effect. We urge that \$18 million be appropriated for the regular research and education program, plus an additional \$7 million to start-up the matching grant program. Invest in long-term systems research trials and accompanying education and extension/outreach. Long-term systems research is crucial to addressing 21st-century agriculture systems challenges and successfully dealing with climate change, creating sustainable biofuels, and sequestering carbon. Support and cultivate the next generation of sustainable agriculture researchers and practitioners. Due to lack of funds, less than one in ten research and education proposals submitted to SARE is funded while the interest in and promise of sustainable agricultural systems continues to rise substantially.

We strongly urge an increased commitment to SARE through an appropriation of \$30 million in FY 10 that is consistent with sustainable agriculture's expanding role within our food and farming system and with the program's award-winning and cost-effective delivery of services.

Organic Transitions Research. Beginning in FY 09, the Organic Transitions integrated program will be combined with funding from the Water Quality integrated program to fund multi-year projects to examine the effects of organic systems on water quality. The combined funding will focus resources on solutions to critical water quality problems, while also helping total USDA support for organic research to move closer to a fair share for organic, the research share for which still lags significantly behind its market share.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. We recommend \$250 million in FY 10, up from \$201.5 million in FY 09. AFRI replaces the National Research Initiative, authorized in 1990, and the Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems, authorized in 1998. We support funding for integrated research, education, and extension national programs under AFRI of at least \$75 million.

We oppose merging the Section 406 programs into AFRI. We strongly support the new AFRI program priorities not expressly contained in NRI or IFAFS for conventional plant breeding, conventional animal breeding, renewable energy, domestic marketing strategies, and rural entrepreneurship, and urge the Subcommittee to include report language affirming support to begin new national programs within AFRI to respond to these congressional priorities.

#### Farm Service Agency

**Direct Farm Ownership and Direct Operating Loans.** Direct loans play a very significant role in helping beginning farmers and ranchers get established in agriculture and deserve continuing support. The 2008 Farm Bill updated the loan limitation level for both types of loans and also create a parallel increase in the authorization for appropriation in order to not have the per loan limit increase shrink the number of borrowers served. In the meantime, the continuing financial crisis is dramatically increasing demand for both direct and guaranteed loans. The economic recovery bill responded with extra funding for direct operating loans, money that has already been fully utilized. FSA is still short of direct operating money and way short of direct ownership money for FY 09, and will therefore start FY 10 with a major deficit. We urge the inclusion of at least \$50 million in budget authority for FY 09 direct lending in the FY 09 supplemental appropriations bill plus an increase in direct lending to a level of at least \$350 million for ownership loans and \$750 million for operating loans for FY 10.

**Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account Program.** This new competitive grants program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill enables beginning farmers and ranchers to open an Individual Development Account (matched savings account) in order to save for a farming-related asset including, farmland, farming equipment, breeding stock, trees, or similar expenditures permitted by USDA. The Farm Bill authorizes \$5 million a year for the program. A 50% local match is needed to obtain the federal grant which may not exceed \$250,000. This program contains both the infrastructure as well as the incentives for individuals who might not historically be able to save towards retirement or make intermediate, asset-building purchases. We urge you to support the full \$5 million amount for this program.

#### AMS/ ERS/ NASS

**Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives.** We request \$5 million in FY 10 for this crucial program, divided in the following way: \$3 million for AMS, \$1.5 million for ERS, and \$0.5 million for NASS. As the organic industry rapidly matures and grows, it needs national data for production, pricing, and marketing of organic products. Authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill and receiving minimum baseline funding of \$0.5 million a year starting with the FY 05 bill, this Initiative begins to address the tremendous backlog of organic data-collection needs at the USDA data-collection agencies. Congress reauthorized this Initiative in the 2008 Farm Bill and provided it with a one-time boost of \$5 million in direct spending (all of which has been spent) plus an additional authorization of appropriations of \$25 million for FY 08-12. The information generated by the initiative is critical to organic farmers' access to crop insurance, credit, and other farm programs.

#### Rural Business and Cooperative Service Programs

**Value-Added Producer Grants Program.** VAPG offers grants to farmers and ranchers developing new farm and food-related businesses that boost farm income, create jobs, and increase

rural economic opportunity. As farmers and rural communities face tough economic times, the VAPG program grants encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture. Furthermore, strong interest in farm-to-school programs is generating significantly increased demand for mid-tier value chains and local food enterprises to aggregate local production and makes it available in a form usable by school cafeterias, exactly the kind of rural development program VAPG is designed to support. VAPG is an excellent investment in rural economic recovery. We request VAPG funding of \$30 million.

**Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.** RMAP provides business training, technical assistance, and loans to owner-operated businesses with up to ten employees. Small businesses make up 90 percent of all rural businesses and micro-businesses are the fastest growing segment in many rural areas. This program is critical to preventing a credit freeze to the most essential part of the rural economy. NSAC requests that RMAP be funded at \$30 million, inclusive of \$4 million of mandatory farm bill funding.

**Rural Community Development Grants.** The RCDG program is a competitive grants program which provides matching grant funding to non-profits or institutions of higher education that operate cooperative development centers primarily serving farmers and groups seeking to form cooperatively-owned businesses in rural areas. The program, begun in 1993, is authorized at \$50 million, but has never been appropriated at more than \$6.5 million annually even though the agency regularly can fund only half of the eligible applicants. Given the jobs crisis in rural America, this grant program can provide crucial support to stimulate economic activity and job creation. We encourage an appropriation of \$8.25 million in FY 2010.

**Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) Program.** We recommend \$3 million in FY 10, a slight increase over the \$2.6 million the program received in FY 09. As the national information service for sustainable and organic agriculture, ATTRA answers practical questions on matters ranging from agronomic methods to small business start-up strategies from farmers, agricultural professionals, and others who call its 1-800 number. The toll-free lines are staffed 12 hours per day in both English and Spanish, and its extensive website has more than 250 free downloadable publications. A modest increase in program funding will help address the burgeoning interest in sustainable and organic agriculture as well as in on-farm renewable energy alternatives by increasing ATTRA's capacity as an accurate, expert, and timely information- and technical-assistance- provider.

**No CHIMPs.** We congratulate Congress for coming close in the FY 09 bill to ending the practice of reducing farm bill direct spending for conservation, rural development, energy, and research through general provision limitations. We urge the Subcommittee to continue this practice. In particular, we call attention to four competitive grants programs and two conservation programs that are among NSAC's high priority programs. We urge your strong support for the Organic Research and Extension Initiative, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, and Farmers' Market Promotion Program, as well as the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. We urge you to keep the FY 10 bill clean of any limitations on direct funding for conservation, rural development, energy, and research.

**STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM**  
**Submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Appropriations -- Subcommittee on**  
**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**

May 1, 2009

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and the 32 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) that compose the list of 1994 Land Grant Institutions, thank you for this opportunity to share our funding requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010.

This statement is presented in three parts: a) a summary of our FY 2010 funding recommendations, b) a brief background on Tribal Colleges and Universities, and c) an outline of the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions' plan for using our land grant programs to fulfill the agricultural potential of American Indian communities, and to ensure that American Indians have the skills and support needed to maximize the economic potential of their resources.

**I. Summary of Requests**

We respectfully request the following funding levels for FY 2010 for our land grant programs established within the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Rural Development mission area. In CSREES, we specifically request: \$5.0 million for the 1994 Institutions' competitive extension grants program; \$3.0 million for the 1994 Institutions' competitive research grants program; \$3.342 million for the higher education equity grants; \$12 million payment into the Native American endowment fund; and in the Rural Development - Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP), that \$5.0 million be provided for each of the next five fiscal years for the TCU Essential Community Facilities Grants Program. The grants help to address the critical facilities and infrastructure needs at the colleges to increase our capacity to participate fully as land grant partners.

**II. Background on Tribal Colleges and Universities**

The first Morrill Act was enacted in 1862 specifically to bring education to the people and to serve their fundamental needs. Today, 147 years after enactment of the first land grant legislation, the 1994 Land Grant Institutions, as much as any other higher education institutions, exemplify the original intent of the land grant legislation, as they are truly community-based institutions.

The Tribal College Movement was launched in the past 40 years with the establishment of Navajo Community College, now Diné College, serving the Navajo Nation. Rapid growth of the TCU Movement soon followed, primarily in the Northern Plains region. In 1972, six tribally controlled colleges established the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to provide a support network for member institutions. Today, AIHEC represents 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities - 32 of which compose the current list of 1994 Land Grant Institutions located in 12 states. Our institutions were created specifically to serve the higher education needs of American Indian students in Indian Country. They serve many thousands of Indian full- and part-time students and community members from over 250 federally recognized tribes.

The 1994 Land Grant Institutions are accredited by independent, regional accreditation agencies and like all institutions of higher education, must undergo stringent performance reviews to retain their accreditation status. TCUs serve as community centers by providing libraries, tribal archives, career centers, economic development and business centers, public meeting places, and child and elder care centers. Despite their many obligations, functions, and notable achievements, TCUs remain the most poorly funded institutions of higher education in this country. The vast majority of the 1994 Land Grant Institutions is located on federal trust territory. Therefore, states have no obligation, and in most cases, provide no funding to TCUs. In fact, most states do not even provide funds to our institutions for the non-Indian state residents attending our colleges, leaving the TCUs to assume the per student operational costs for non-Indian students enrolled in our institutions, accounting for approximately 20 percent of our student population. This is a significant financial commitment on the part of TCUs, as they are small, developing institutions and cannot, unlike their state land grant partners, benefit from economies of scale – where the cost per student to operate an institution is reduced by the comparatively large size of the student body.

As a result of 200 years of federal Indian policy - including policies of termination, assimilation and relocation - many reservation residents live in conditions of poverty comparable to those found in Third World nations. Through the efforts of Tribal Colleges and Universities, American Indian communities are availing themselves of resources needed to foster responsible, productive, and self-reliant citizens. It is essential that we continue to invest in the human resources that will help open new avenues to economic development, specifically through enhancing the 1994 Institutions' land grant programs, and securing adequate access to information technology.

### **III. 1994 Land Grant Programs—Ambitious Efforts to Reach Economic Potential**

In the past, due to lack of expertise and training, millions of acres on our reservations lie fallow, under-used, or have been developed through methods that have caused irreparable damage. The Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 is addressing this situation and is our hope for future advancement.

Our current land grant programs remain small, yet very important to us. It is essential that American Indians explore and adopt new and evolving technologies for managing our lands. With increased capacity and program funding, we will become even more significant contributors to the agricultural base of the nation and the world.

**Competitive Extension Grants Programs:** The 1994 Institutions' extension programs strengthen communities through outreach programs designed to bolster economic development; community resources; family and youth development; natural resources development; agriculture; as well as health and nutrition education and awareness.

In FY09, \$3,321,000 was appropriated for the 1994 Institutions' competitive extension grants. The 1994 Institutions' ability to maintain existing programs and to respond to emerging issues such as food safety and homeland security, especially on border reservations, is severely limited without adequate funding. Increased funding is needed to support these vital programs designed to address the inadequate extension services that have been provided to Indian reservations by their respective state programs. It is

important to note that the 1994 extension program does not duplicate the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program, formerly the Indian Reservation Extension Agent program. 1994 Tribal College Land Grant programs are very modestly funded. The 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions have applied their ingenuity for making the most of every dollar they have at their disposal by leveraging funds to maximize their programs whenever possible. Some examples of 1994 extension programs include: Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College in Wisconsin is strengthening the household economies of local reservation communities by offering financial education curriculum in managing budgets, saving for the future, and understanding the credit basics. Sitting Bull College, which serves reservation communities in both North and South Dakota, offers an equine extension program to help youth learn about the historical role of horses in American Indian Tribal life, while teaching them important leadership skills necessary to succeed in today's world. These are just two examples of the innovative programs being conducted at 1994 Institutions. *To continue and expand these successful programs, we request that the Subcommittee support this competitive program by appropriating \$5.0 million to sustain the growth and further success of these essential community-based extension programs.*

**1994 Competitive Research Program:** As the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions enter into partnerships with 1862/1890 land grant institutions through collaborative research projects, impressive efforts to address economic development through natural resource management have emerged. The 1994 Research Program illustrates an ideal combination of federal resources and tribal college-state institutional expertise, with the overall impact being far greater than the sum of its parts. We recognize the severe budget constraints under which Congress is currently functioning. However, the \$1,610,000 appropriated in FY09 is grossly inadequate to develop capacity and conduct necessary research at our institutions. The 1994 Research Program is vital to ensuring that TCUs may finally be recognized as full partners in the nation's land grant system. Many of our institutions are currently conducting applied research, yet finding the resources to conduct this research to meet their communities' needs is a continual challenge. This research authority opens the door to new funding opportunities to maintain and expand the research projects begun at the 1994 Institutions, but only if adequate funds are secured and sustained. A total research budget of \$1,610,000, for which all 32 of the 1994 Institutions compete for research dollars, is clearly insufficient. Priority issue areas currently being studied at the 1994 Institutions include: sustainable agriculture and forestry; biotechnology and bioprocessing; agribusiness management and marketing; plant propagation, including native plant preservation for medicinal and economic purposes; animal breeding; aquaculture; human nutrition (including health, obesity, and diabetes); and family, community, and rural development. The College of Menominee Nation in Wisconsin is collecting and analyzing data concerning forest health and sustainability that will help its tribal forest managers meet the growing demand for forest products while protecting the woodlands environment for future generations. Turtle Mountain Community College in North Dakota is studying the spread of West Nile virus, which causes serious diseases in animals and people. Results of the study will assist tribal efforts in the surveillance, prevention, and control of the mosquito-borne virus. These are just two examples of 1994 Research projects. *We strongly urge the Subcommittee to fund this program at a minimum of \$3.0 million to enable our institutions to develop and strengthen their research capacity.*

**1994 Institutions' Educational Equity Grant Program:** This program is designed to assist 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions with academic programs. Through the modest appropriations first made available in FY 2001, the TCU Land Grant Institutions have begun to support courses and to conduct planning activities specifically targeting the unique educational needs of their respective communities.

The 1994 Institutions have developed and implemented courses and programs in natural resource management; environmental sciences; horticulture; forestry; and food science and nutrition. This last category is helping to address the epidemic rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease that plague American Indian reservations. *We request that the Subcommittee appropriate a minimum of \$3,342,000 to allow the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions to build upon their course offerings and successful activities that have been launched.*

**Native American Endowment Fund:** Endowment installments that are paid into the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions' account remain with the U.S. Treasury. Only the annual interest yield, less the USDA's administrative fee, is distributed to the institutions. The latest gross annual interest yield for the 1994 Institutions Endowment was \$3,929,412 and after the USDA takes its standard four-percent administrative fee, \$3,772,236 should be available for distribution to the eligible 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions by statutory formula. While the Department has not yet shared the breakdown of funds to be distributed to each of the 1994 Institutions for this year, last year the USDA administrative fee was larger than the amount paid to all but nine of the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions or in other words the USDA claims a fee that is higher than 70 percent of the 1994 Institutions' payments. Once the distribution amounts are determined for this year's disbursement, we fully expect similar results.

Just as other land grant institutions historically received large grants of land or endowments in lieu of land, this endowment assists 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions in establishing and strengthening their academic programs in such areas as curriculum development, faculty preparation, instruction delivery, and to help address critical facilities and infrastructure issues. Many of the colleges have used the endowment in conjunction with the Education Equity Grant funds to develop and implement their academic programs. As earlier stated, TCUs often serve as primary community centers and although conditions at some have improved substantially, many of the colleges still operate under less than satisfactory conditions. In fact, most of the TCUs continue to cite improved facilities as one of their highest priorities. Several of the colleges have indicated the need for immediate new construction and substantial renovations to replace buildings that have long exceeded their effective life spans and to upgrade existing facilities to address accessibility and safety concerns.

Endowment payments increase the size of the corpus held by the U.S. Treasury and thereby increase the annual interest yield disbursed to the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions. These additional funds would continue to support faculty and staff positions and program needs within 1994 agriculture and natural resources departments, as well as to help address the critical and very expensive facilities needs at these institutions. Currently, the amount that each college receives from this endowment is not adequate to address both curriculum development and instruction delivery, and completely insufficient to address the necessary facilities and infrastructure projects at these institutions. In order for the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions to become full partners in this nation's great land grant system, we need and, through numerous treaty obligations, are due the facilities and infrastructure necessary to fully engage in education and research programs vital to the future health and well being of our reservation communities. *We respectfully request the Subcommittee fund the FY 2010 endowment payment at \$12.0 million – returning the payment amount to the pre across-the-board rescission level imposed each year on non-defense appropriated funding. We also request that the Subcommittee review the USDA's administrative fee and consider reducing it for the Native American Endowment so that more of these already limited funds can be utilized by the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions to conduct vital community based*

programs.

**Tribal College Essential Community Facilities Program (Rural Development):** In FY09, \$3,972,000 of the Rural Development Advancement Program (RCAP) funds appropriated for loans and grants to benefit federally recognized American Indian tribes was targeted for essential community facility grants at Tribal College Land Grant Institutions. This level of funding is a decrease of about half of a million dollars from FY07, when the program was appropriated \$4.5 million – reduced to \$4,419,000 by the across the board cut. *We urge the Subcommittee to designate \$5.0 million each year of the next five fiscal years to afford the 1994 Institutions the means to aggressively address critical facilities needs, thereby allowing them to better serve their students and respective communities.*

#### IV. Conclusion

The 1994 Land Grant Institutions have proven to be efficient and effective vehicles for bringing educational opportunities to American Indians and the promise of self-sufficiency to some of this nation's poorest and most underserved regions. The modest federal investment in the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions has already paid great dividends in terms of increased employment, access to higher education, and economic development. Continuation of this investment makes sound moral and fiscal sense. American Indian reservation communities are second to none in their potential for benefiting from effective land grant programs and, as earlier stated, no institutions better exemplify the original intent of the land grant concept than the 1994 Land Grant Institutions.

We appreciate your support of the 1994 Tribal College Land Grant Institutions and recognition of their role in the nation's land grant system. We ask you to renew your commitment to help move our students and communities toward self-sufficiency. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the other members of the nation's great land grant system - a partnership with the potential to bring equitable educational, agricultural, and economic opportunities to Indian Country.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our funding proposals to the subcommittee. We respectfully request your continued support and full consideration of our Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations recommendations.





**Statement of the  
American Farm Bureau Federation**

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**TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**FARM PROGRAMS IN FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS**

**March 27, 2009**

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The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has identified five general areas for increased emphasis and funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs in the Fiscal Year 2010 agriculture spending bill. They are:

- Programs that strengthen rural communities;
- Programs that improve USDA efficiency;
- Programs that enhance and improve food safety and protection;
- Programs that expand export markets for agriculture; and
- Programs that insure the availability of crop protection tools for food production.

Within these categories, we would like to call your attention to specific programs deserving of your support.

Programs that Strengthen Rural Communities

The lack of high-speed, modern telecommunications systems in rural America hinders its residents' access to educational, medical and business opportunities, and therefore the economic growth of rural America. We support \$1.3 billion for loans and grants administered by the Rural Utilities Service to increase rural broadband capacity and telecommunications services and to fund the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program.

Rural entrepreneurs often lack access to the capital and technical assistance necessary to start new businesses. These new ventures are needed for rural communities to sustain themselves and contribute to our national economy. AFBF supports funding for USDA Rural Development (RD) programs that foster new business development in rural communities. These programs include Value-Added Agricultural Production Grants, Business and Industry Direct and Guaranteed Loans, and the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

Many rural communities lack access to the tax base necessary to provide modern community facilities like fire stations. We support funding for RD's Community Facility Direct and Guaranteed Loans, which finance the construction, enlargement or improvement of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns with populations of less than 20,000.

Renewable energy production holds great promise as a means to help America's farmers and rural communities contribute to our national economy and enhance our national security. We support increasing funding for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) by \$250 million. REEP offers grants, guaranteed loans and combination grant/guaranteed loans to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements in rural areas.

The Revolving Fund (RFP) Grant Program helps communities acquire safe drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound waste disposal facilities. With dependable water facilities, rural communities can attract families and businesses that will invest in the community and improve the quality of life for all residents. We support funding for this important program.

AFBF supports funding for and opposes any effort to eliminate the Resource Conservation and Development program. This vital program supports economic development and resource

protection. This program, in cooperation with rural development councils, helps local volunteers create new businesses, form cooperatives, develop marketing and agri-tourism activities, improve water quality and flood control, improve leadership and other business skills and implement renewable energy projects.

We support full funding for Agriculture in the Classroom, a national grassroots program coordinated by the USDA. This worthy program helps students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

Programs that Improve USDA Efficiency

Farm Bureau strongly supports providing an additional \$250 million to USDA to improve computer technology in the Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA currently operates on the oldest technology system within USDA and one of the oldest systems in the entire federal government. These outdated systems create enormous inefficiencies throughout the department, and it is unclear how long these antiquated systems can continue to support increasingly complex farm programs. Systems across agencies under USDA jurisdiction cannot communicate with each other, which could lead to improper payments and often requires duplicative paperwork and additional labor hours. Upgrading FSA computer technology now will lead to greater efficiencies down the road and could prevent a future system failure.

Programs that Enhance and Improve Food Safety and Protection

Americans spend more than \$1 trillion annually on food – nearly half of it in restaurants, schools and other places outside the home. Consumers have a reasonable expectation that the food products they buy are safe. The continued safety of food is crucial to consumers, as well as production agriculture and the food industry. AFBF believes that sufficient, reliable federal funding for the government's food and feed safety and protection functions is vital to this effort.

Therefore, we recommend that funding be increased for food protection at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and at the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and directed to:

- Increased education and training of inspectors;
- Additional science-based inspection, targeted according to risk;
- Research and development of scientifically based rapid testing procedures and tools;
- Accurate and timely responses to outbreaks that identify contaminated products, remove them from the market and minimize disruption to producers; and
- Indemnification for producers who suffer marketing losses due to inaccurate government-advised recalls or warnings.

We also support authorized funding of \$2.5 million for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD). FARAD aids veterinarians in establishing science-based recommendations for drug withdrawal intervals, critical for both food safety and animal health. No other government program provides or duplicates the food safety information FARAD provides to the public. Without the critical FARAD program, producers may be forced to euthanize animals or dispose of meat, milk and eggs due to the lack of withdrawal information.

Programs that Expand Export Markets for Agriculture

AFBF supports funding at authorized levels for:

- P.L. 480 programs which serve as the primary means by which the United States provides needed foreign food assistance through the purchase of U.S. commodities. In addition to providing short-term humanitarian assistance, the program helps to develop long-term commercial export markets.
- The International Food for Education Program which is an effective platform for delivering severely needed food aid and educational assistance.

The Market Access Program, the Foreign Market Development Program, the Emerging Markets Program and the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops program are effective export development and expansion programs. These programs have resulted in record increases in demand for U.S. agriculture and food products abroad and should be fully funded.

As trade increases between countries, so too does the threat of new invasive and noxious pests that can destroy America's agricultural and natural resources. Therefore, we support full funding for the following Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) programs:

- The APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine personnel and facilities, especially the plant inspection stations, are necessary to protect U.S. agriculture from costly pest problems that enter the U.S. from foreign lands.
- APHIS trade issues resolution and management activities are essential for an effective response when other countries raise pest and disease concerns (i.e., sanitary and phytosanitary measures) to prohibit the entry of American products. APHIS must be active at U.S. ports and in overseas locations to monitor pest and disease conditions, negotiate trading protocols and to intervene when foreign officials wrongfully prevent the entry of American imports.
- APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) play an important role in overseeing the permit, notification and deregulation process for products of biotechnology. BRS personnel and activities are essential to ensure public confidence and international acceptance of biotechnology products.

Full funding for the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is urgently needed to maintain services in an agency that has been significantly depleted in recent years. We urge continued support for the Office of the Secretary for cross-cutting trade negotiations and biotechnology resources.

The U.S. Codex Office is essential to developing harmonized international standards for food and food products. Codex standards provide uniformity in food rules and regulations by allowing countries to adopt similar levels of safety protection for consumers while concurrently facilitating transparency in food trade.

Programs that Insure the Availability of Information on Crop Protection Tools Used for Food Production

Farmers need access to reliable and affordable crop protection chemicals. Farm Bureau supports \$8.4 million be provided to the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), specifically for the continuation of agricultural chemical-use surveys for fruits, vegetables, floriculture and nursery crops. NASS surveys provide current and relevant data about the use of agricultural chemicals involved in the production of food, fiber and various horticultural products. The information collected helps USDA to conduct reliable analysis of product use and EPA to characterize the potential theoretical risks associated with agricultural chemical products. Only with reliable data can USDA and EPA accurately assess the economic benefits of agricultural chemicals and make responsible decisions about product registration.



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*Statement of the American Society for Microbiology  
Submitted to the  
House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee  
On Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
On the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriation for the United States Department of Agriculture*

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is pleased to submit the following testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 appropriation for The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) research and education programs. The ASM is the largest single life science organization in the world with more than 40,000 members. The ASM mission is to enhance the science of microbiology, to gain a better understanding of life processes, and to promote the application of this knowledge for improved health and environmental well-being.

The science based missions of the USDA, fueled by its research and education programs, are essential to human, environmental and animal health. The ASM strongly urges Congress to appropriate at least \$1.24 billion for the Agriculture Research Service in FY2010, \$1.24 billion for the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, and to provide \$300 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Agriculture research plays an important role in the improvement of food safety, the environment, and animal and plant health but also contributes to the economic well-being of the nation. In a September 2007 report entitled: "Economic Returns to Public Agriculture Research," the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) found that the average rate of return from public investment in agriculture research is an impressive 45 percent on the dollar. In reviewing more than thirty-five economic studies on the social rate of return, the ERS also found that such a high rate of return is shared by all levels of the agricultural continuum, from the producer to the consumer.

**The Agriculture Research Service (ARS)**

The core research arm of the USDA, the ARS is divided into four National Programs that focus on critically important areas of agricultural research:

- Nutrition, Food Safety/Quality
- Animal Production and Protection
- Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems
- Crop Production and Protection

Agricultural research is critically important to human and animal health. The ARS has funded a number of cooperative research projects related to zoonotic viruses including a study evaluating influenza vaccines in pigs and the establishment of a pig model from the 1930 H1N1 swine influenza. The ARS works to understand the biology of animal pathogens including the H1N1

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swine virus to combat such outbreaks at the animal level and reduce the risk to humans. The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) also works extensively with zoonotic virus monitoring which contributes to the knowledge base of the ARS.

The ASM urges Congress to fund the ARS with \$1.24 billion in FY2010, a 4 percent increase from the FY2008 level.

Food Safety

The ASM supports the Administration's pledge to increase funding for food safety. The first step to ensuring a safe and plentiful national food source is to maintain a successful research platform.

Despite advances, food safety remains a serious and complex issue. Recent outbreaks of Salmonella Saintpaul demonstrate how quickly and severely pathogens can spread through the population. Understanding the cause of foodborne illness is an important step towards a better understanding of the ways to treat and prevent future outbreaks. According to the CDC, in the United States there are an estimated 76 million cases of foodborne illness each year, resulting in 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths. Agricultural research is an irreplaceable tool in the fight against foodborne illness as researchers supported by the USDA work to understand and prevent the transference of some types of bacteria from the food supply.

Recently, the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report stated that: "None of the Healthy People 2010 targets for reduction of foodborne pathogens were reached in 2008. The lack of recent progress points to gaps in the current food safety system and the need to continue to develop and evaluate food safety practices as food moves from the farm to the table." Increased funding for the ARS is critical to the prevention, treatment and understanding of foodborne illness, both current and future outbreaks.

Antimicrobial Resistance

The prevalence of antimicrobial resistance remains a threat to human and animal health as foodborne and other bacterial pathogens are increasingly changing and evolving to adapt to new antimicrobial agents. The USDA has supported a number of important research projects that bring together basic and applied research to combat this very real threat. Adequate funding for the USDA is vital to ensure such research continues as the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance increases.

Climate Change

The ARS supports projects that work to ensure the effects of global change on agriculture are understood and ways to mitigate risks are developed. The impact of global climate change and global warming trends on agricultural yields could be severe. Without adequate funding for the ARS, the impact of climate change on food production and plant health could be neglected, with

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disastrous results. Current research projects related to climate change include:

- Crop and Weed Responses to Increasing Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide
- Evaluating Effects of Nitrogen Deposition and Ambient Ozone on an Invasive Plant in the National Capitol Region
- Soil Carbon in Urban Environments

The ARS's Global Change National Program conducted a five year cycle of study from 2002 – 2007 to explore the effects of Global Change in depth. The programs' accomplishment report, conducted by non-ARS scientists, released in 2008 stated: "The ARS is poised as a leader in the field of global change research to help understand the impacts of global change on agriculture, enable agriculture to adapt to global change and reduce the impact of agriculture on factors affecting global change." The report also emphasized the need for continued and future research to combat the evolving and complex problems that arise with climate change. Continued and sustainable funding for the ARS will help to ensure that other such crucial research can be completed to further the understanding of climate change.

**Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)**

Soon to become the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), CSREES works with land-grant universities, public and private organizations and supports research that increases understanding and knowledge of the unique link between the environment, agriculture and human health. Supporting research at the local and state level allows the CSREES to fund programs that impact not only scientific research, but local economies as well. The ASM urges Congress to appropriate at least \$1.24 billion for the CSREES in FY2010, a 4 percent increase from the FY2008 level.

CSREES supports a number of important areas of interest categorized as National Emphasis Areas:

- Agricultural Systems
- Animals
- Biotechnology & Genomics
- Economics & Community Development
- Education
- Families, Youth & Communities
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- International
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Pest Management
- Plants
- Technology & Engineering

Climate Change

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The effects of climate change are almost guaranteed to impact all life forms, and the research funded by the CSREES works to ensure that the best science is presented to offset such impacts. Supporting universities as well as public and private organizations lends opportunity for the best science and research to become a part of the larger solution.

The buildup of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has caused considerable concern as the negative effects of climate change are studied and understood. The Consortium for Agricultural Soils Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases, funded by the CSREES, is working to develop the technologies and strategies to successfully implement soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction programs. Such initiatives are at the forefront of the race to find ways to combat the negative effects of global climate change. The CSREES support of such successful programs sends the message that climate change is an issue that needs collaboration from all science concentrations, especially from agricultural research.

Biofuels

Proven to be the most resourceful and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels, biofuels bring the promise of a cleaner and more efficient source of energy. Much like fossil fuels however, biofuels create a substantial amount of waste called Glycerin that is difficult to break down. The creation of waste has slowed the implementation of biofuels as a mainstream, alternative to traditional fossil fuels. A project funded by the CSREES however, has developed a fermentation technology that combines *E. coli* with glycerin to create a high value chemical reducing the existence of waste, as the chemical created can be used as a commodity on the domestic market. Such projects, as supported by the CSREES, are providing real-life solutions to problems once considered too daunting to tackle.

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

AFRI was established in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 as a competitive grants program aimed to support research, education and the extension of our nation's food and agricultural systems. Formerly operating as the National Research Initiative program (NRI), AFRI is the foundation of competitive grants within the USDA, supporting a focus on six core areas within the food and agricultural sciences:

- Plant Health and Production
- Animal Health
- Food Safety, Nutrition and Health
- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment
- Agriculture Systems and technology
- Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities

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AFRI moves the work of scientists past research and into development, implementation, education, and extension. Investments by the NRI in this type of research have resulted in a number of advances in critical issue areas such as, food safety, food security, sustainable fuel production and ecosystem health services. The importance of these programs on the overall health of the Nation cannot be underestimated. AFRI supports essential research with far reaching impacts into human, environmental and plant health, the basis of life.

Currently authorized at \$700 million per year, the ASM strongly urges Congress to fund AFRI with *at least* \$300 million for FY2010.

**Education and Workforce**

Investing in research at the USDA ensures that coming generations of researchers, educators and students have the opportunity to stay within the agricultural sciences and keep the Nation competitive on a global scale. Reduced or stagnant funding sends the detrimental message to the nation's students and research scientists that agricultural and biological research is not a worthwhile field to pursue. This risks a very real and problematic 'brain drain' compromising the status of the United States as a world leader in cutting edge scientific research. Ensuring funding for competitive grants programs and basic research will help to send the positive message that investing in agricultural and biological sciences is worthwhile.

**Conclusion**

The ASM urges Congress to increase research and education funding in the USDA budget, and provide at least \$1.24 billion for the ARS, \$1.24 billion for the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, and \$300 million for AFRI in FY2010. Research in the agricultural and biological sciences is imperative to combat current and future threats to human, environmental, plant and animal health. The research supported by the USDA should be a priority that deserves steady, predictable and sustainable funding by the federal government. The future of our agricultural systems, a basis for human health, relies on it.

The ASM appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony and would be pleased to assist the Subcommittee as it considers the FY 2010 appropriation for the USDA.



*For Further Information on this Statement, Contact:*  
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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 National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR) urges the Subcommittee to increase federal investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education (RE&E) as a critical component of federal appropriations for FY10, including at least **\$300 million for the new Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**.

President Obama has acknowledged the need for a major investment in research, saying at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences that the United States will “devote more than 3 percent of our GDP to research and development.” We support President Obama’s goal, and advise you that food and agriculture research must be a part of his vision.

The potential payoff is enormous for both Americans’ health and the nation’s economy. Federal investments in food and agricultural RE&E have brought profitability to production agriculture, found solutions for difficult conservation and environmental challenges, addressed the many issues of food safety, and provided the baseline for our whole knowledge of human nutrition.

Now, RE&E must seek solutions for feeding growing populations, dealing with climate change, developing sustainable fuel production, maintaining ecosystem health, and assuring all people food security and proper nutrition. Now is the time to grow investment in our nation’s agricultural research enterprise and build on the successes of the past by increasing funding for a variety of food and agricultural research, extension and education efforts, and in particular the new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and AFRI.

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National C-FAR urges the Subcommittee to *increase funding for AFRI to at least \$300 million in FY10 with a goal of funding AFRI at the fully authorized level as soon as practicable, and by FY13 at the latest.* 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. National C-FAR opposes taking funds from other RE&E programs in USDA to fund AFRI.

NIFA, AFRI and other recent reforms offer a new opportunity to transform USDA's RE&E mission. AFRI will support research on key problems of national and regional importance in biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment on a peer-reviewed, competitive basis. Additionally, AFRI should enable USDA to continue leveraging a portion of its RE&E funds fostering the development of partnerships with other federal agencies that advance agricultural science.

National C-FAR also supports the Administration's FY10 requests for other parts of USDA's RE&E mission, including: the remainder of the Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) beyond AFRI, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS) and Forest Service (FS).

The Research Title of the Farm Bill represents the nation's *signature federal investment in the future of the food and agricultural sector.* Other Farm Bill titles depend heavily upon the Research Title for tools to help achieve their stated objectives. Public investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education today and in the future must simultaneously satisfy needs for food quality and quantity, resource preservation, producer profitability and social acceptability.

Tools provided through RE&E are needed to help achieve safer, more nutritious, convenient and affordable foods delivered to sustain a well nourished, healthy population; more efficient and environmentally friendly food, fiber and forest production; improved water quality, land conservation, wildlife and other environmental conditions; less dependence on non-renewable sources of energy; expanded global markets and improved balance of trade ; and more jobs and sustainable rural economic development. Societal demands and expectations placed upon the food and agricultural system are ever-changing and growing.

Multiple examples, such as those highlighted below, serve to illustrate current and future needs that arguably merit enhanced public investment in research, extension and education so that the food and agricultural system can respond to these challenges on a sustainable basis:

- ◆ Strengthened **bio-security** is a pressing national priority. There is a compelling need for improved bio-security and bio-safety tools and policies to protect against bio-terrorism and dreaded problems such as foot-and-mouth and "mad cow" diseases and other exotic plant and animal pests, and protection of range lands from invasive species.
- ◆ **Food-linked health** costs are high. Some \$100 billion of annual U.S. health costs are linked to poor diets, obesity, food borne pathogens and allergens. Opportunities exist to create healthier diets through

- ◆ improvements in the food supply and in consumer knowledge and implementation of dietary guidance
- ◆ Research, extension and education are key to providing to solutions to **environment and conservation** challenges related to global warming, limited water resources, enhanced wildlife habitat, and competing demands for land and other agricultural resources. Rural water conservation and development of drought-resistant crops have evolved from a good idea to a necessity.
- ◆ It is a *highly competitive world for food* and agriculture and rural America. There was considerable debate during the last Farm Bill reauthorization about how expanded food and agricultural research, extension and education could enhance **farm income and rural revitalization** by improving competitiveness and value-added opportunities.
- ◆ Energy costs are escalating, dependence on petroleum imports is growing and concerns about greenhouse gases are rising. Research, extension and education can enhance agriculture's ability to provide **renewable** sources of energy and cleaner burning fuels, sequester carbon, and provide other environmental benefits to help address these challenges, and indeed generate value-added income for producers and stimulate rural economic development.
- ◆ Population and income growth are expanding the **world demand** for food and natural fiber and improved diets. World food demand is projected to double in 25 years. Most of this growth will occur in the developing nations where yields are low, land is scarce, and diets are inadequate. Without a vigorous response, demand will only be met at a great global ecological cost.
- ◆ Regardless of one's views about **biotechnology** and genetic resources, an effective publicly funded research role is needed for oversight and to ensure public benefits.

Publicly financed RE&E is a *necessary complement to private sector research*, focusing in areas where the private sector does not have an incentive to invest, when 1) the pay-off is over a long term; 2) the potential market is more speculative; 3) the effort is during the pre-technology stage; and 4) where the benefits are widely diffused. Public research, extension and education help provide oversight and measure long-term progress. Public research, extension and education also act as a means to detect and resolve problems in an early stage, thus saving American taxpayer dollars in remedial and corrective actions.


The USDA, ERS September 2007 Economic Brief titled, "Economic Returns of Public Agricultural Research," shows the average social rate of return to public investment in agricultural research is nearly 50 percent. However, federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education has been essentially *flat for over 20 years*, while support for other federal research has increased substantially. Public funding of agricultural research in the rest of the world during the same time period has outpaced investment in the U.S., leading to competitive concerns. There also are vast areas where the public will trust only U.S. federal investments in research – a case in point is human nutrition research.

By any measure, federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education – which has declined about one-fourth since FY 2003 -- has failed to keep pace with identified priority needs. Allowing this decline to continue is likely to irrevocably harm our responses to human needs and competitive forces. It is imperative to lay the groundwork now to respond to the many challenges and promising opportunities ahead through federal policies and programs needed to promote the long-term health and vitality of food and agriculture for the benefit of both consumers and producers. Stronger public investment in food and agricultural RE&E is essential in producing research outcomes needed to help deliver beneficial and timely solutions on a sustainable basis

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.

We agree with President Obama that, "Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been."

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Stephanie Patrick".

M. Stephanie Patrick, President

**Written Testimony of the  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
By Mark Lipson,<sup>1</sup> Senior Policy Analyst**

**Submitted to the  
House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Revised May 11, 2009**

The Organic Farming Research Foundation's funding requests for the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill are to protect mandatory funding and to allocate \$54.7 million in discretionary funds, divided among agencies and programs in the following manner:

- **USDA – Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service**
  - Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative  
FY 09 Actual: \$18 million  
USDA FY 10 Request: protect mandatory funding  
OFRF FY 10 Request: protect mandatory funding plus \$5 million discretionary
  - “Organic Transitions” Integrated Research  
FY 09 Actual: \$1.8 million  
USDA FY 10 Request: \$1.8 million  
OFRF FY 10 Request: \$5 million
- **USDA – Agricultural Research Service**
  - Direct Organic Projects  
FY 09 Actual: \$16.9 million  
USDA FY 10: N/A  
OFRF FY 10 Request: \$33 million
    - Includes “Organic Research Clearinghouse,” National Agricultural Library: \$250,000
- **USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service/Economic Research Service/National Agricultural Statistics Service**
  - Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives  
FY 09 Actual: \$500,000 appropriated and \$5 million one-time mandatory from 2008 Farm Bill  
USDA FY 10 Request: \$0  
OFRF FY 10 Request: \$5 million

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<sup>1</sup> DC Office: 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 209, Washington, DC 20002, 202-547-5754; CA Office: P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0440, 831-426-6606.

- **USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service**
  - National Organic Program
    - FY 09 Actual: \$3.8 million
    - USDA FY 10 Request: \$6.7 million
    - OFRF FY 10 Request: \$6.7 million

Details and further information on these programs is provided below.

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) appreciates the opportunity to present our funding requests for the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. OFRF is a grower-directed, non-profit foundation working to foster the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. Organic agriculture plays an important and growing role in U.S. agriculture. Relatively modest investments in organic research and education can significantly increase the economic benefits and environmental services provided by organic farming systems and the organic products sector. As a result, we urge the Subcommittee to provide additional resources for organic agriculture in FY 10.

The Organic Farming Research Foundation appropriations requests for FY 10 reflect a coordinated set of activities that will strategically build upon the growth of organic agriculture and leverage the sector's role in addressing the Nation's economic, climate, and energy challenges. Organic agriculture continues to be a growing sector in U.S. agriculture, despite the economic recession. The organic products sector provides jobs on- and off-farm, provides increased marketing opportunities for farmers and processors, and meets widespread consumer demand for more food grown in an environmentally-sound manner. Emerging research is showing that organic agricultural systems provide a comprehensive strategy for mitigating the effects of climate change and facilitating the adaptation to climate change. Organic agriculture also reduces the use of non-renewable sources of energy such as fossil fuels. The multiple benefits of organic production systems make organic agriculture an effective vehicle for achieving national economic and environmental goals. This growth has been facilitated by the Subcommittee and was supported by the 2008 Farm Bill.

OFRF's recommendations emphasize research, data collection, and information dissemination. In our view, these are the most limiting factors for the growth and improvement of organic agriculture. Within the USDA-REE Mission Area, the support of the Subcommittee and the Department has been usefully tracked by the "fair-share" comparison.<sup>2</sup> Currently, organic product sales are approaching 4% of the domestic retail market, yet USDA – REE expenditures directed explicitly to research and information programs for organic agriculture have only just reached 2% of the REE Mission Area funding.<sup>3</sup> This discrepancy is detrimental to an industry that relies intensively on management and information for its success. By providing modest

<sup>2</sup> The fair-share benchmark compares the U.S. retail market share of organic products to the percentage of USDA-REE spending on activities explicitly directed towards organic farming and food.

<sup>3</sup> OFRF estimates total FY 09 organic REE spending at \$48 million, out of approximately \$2.4 billion for the REE Mission Area. This includes: OREI (\$18 million), ORG (\$1.8 million), ARS direct-organic (\$16.9 million), ODI (\$5 million), other CSREES grants (\$6 million).



increases as outlined below, the Subcommittee can help meet the “fair-share” benchmark for organic research and promote the multiple public benefits that organic farming can provide.

**USDA – Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service**

**Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)<sup>4</sup>**

**OFRF FY 10 Request: \$25 million** (protect mandatory funding plus \$5 million discretionary)

OREI is USDA’s premier competitive research and education grant program specifically dedicated to the investigation of organic agriculture. Due to its success with very modest funding, the program received an increase in mandatory funding in the 2008 Farm Bill. Despite this increase, the program remains heavily oversubscribed. For the FY 09 allocation of \$18 million, the program received applications totaling over \$98 million. Increasing organic research capacities within the land grant university system and elsewhere are reflected in this trend.

The 2008 Farm Bill allocates mandatory funding of \$20 million to OREI for FY 10. The legislation also recognizes the need for further increases to reach the full potential of this program and authorizes discretionary funding of up to \$25 million annually. In addition to protecting the full mandatory allocation, OFRF recommends appropriating \$5 million of the discretionary authority in FY 10. This modest additional increase would continue making progress towards the fair-share benchmark of USDA research and education for organic agriculture and respond to the strong demand and increased capacity for the program’s outcomes.

**“Organic Transitions” Integrated Research (ORG)<sup>5</sup>**

**OFRF FY 10 Request: \$5 million**

ORG is the older and smaller of two USDA competitive grant programs dedicated to organic research and education. From 2003 to 2008, it was administered together with OREI. Starting in FY 09, USDA – CSREES is instead combining the program with the 406 Integrated Water Quality research program. The newly combined program will fund multi-year projects that examine the effects of organic production systems on water quality. This approach provides a “specialized” complement to the general purposes of OREI, and OFRF supports this move by the agency. At current funding levels,<sup>6</sup> this program can only fund a small number of serious investigations. Our request of \$5 million for FY 10 seeks to enable a higher level of program performance and help reach the overall organic fair-share benchmark.

<sup>4</sup> The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) is authorized by Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) as amended by Section 7206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

<sup>5</sup> “Organic Transitions” Integrated Research (ORG) is authorized by Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7626).

<sup>6</sup> \$1.8 million for FY 09.

**USDA – Agricultural Research Service****Direct Organic Projects****OFRF FY 10 Request: \$33 million** (“fair share” for ARS organic research)

USDA – Agricultural Research Service has an organic research portfolio and a strategic plan for further organic research activities. The current funding for direct organic projects is \$16.9 million, about 1.5% of the total ARS budget.<sup>7</sup> We are urging growth of the agency’s direct organic activity to reach an ARS fair-share objective of \$33 million. The increase should be pointed towards full implementation of the ARS Organic Research Action Plan.<sup>8</sup>

We ask that \$250,000 be directed at funding the National Agricultural Library’s Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (NAL-AFSIC). As organic results proliferate, dissemination of information becomes a critical limiting factor for the overall goals of widespread adoption. The NAL-AFSIC program is well positioned to lead the dissemination function within USDA. OFRF estimates that maintenance and outreach for a national “clearinghouse” for organic agriculture, “enthusiastically” supported by USDA’s National Research Advisory Board,<sup>9</sup> will require an ongoing annual budget allocation of \$250,000.

**USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service/Economic Research Service/National Agricultural Statistics Service****Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives (ODI)<sup>10</sup>****OFRF FY 10 Request: \$5 million** (\$3 million for AMS, \$1.5 million for ERS, and \$0.5 million for NASS)

Data on prices, yields, and markets are vital to farmers for production planning, market development, risk management, and obtaining financial credit. The organic sector is still without vital comprehensive data on par with what USDA provides for conventional agriculture, putting organic farmers at a significant disadvantage. The absence of marketing and production data specific to organic agriculture inhibits organic producers and handlers, and limits the effectiveness of policies enacted to facilitate the public benefits of organic agriculture.

The Subcommittee has supported the initial 2002 authorization with \$500,000 from 2004 through 2009. These appropriations enabled a minimal baseline effort for general

<sup>7</sup> Communications from ARS national program staff, April 29, 2009. A larger total is reported to Congress, combining “direct organic” projects with “indirect organic” projects, as determined by ARS staff.

<sup>8</sup> Organic Research Action Plan: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Program/216/OrganicResearchActPlan.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> “Report and Recommendations from a Focus Session on Organic Agriculture Conducted at the Advisory Board Meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 29-31, 2007.” Page 4. National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. Transmitted to the Secretary of Agriculture and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and Agriculture, March 5, 2008.

<sup>10</sup> The Organic Market and Production Data Initiatives is authorized by Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 as amended by Section 10302 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

measurements of the organic sector. The 2008 Farm Bill provided \$5 million in mandatory funds to jumpstart the combined data collection initiatives at AMS, ERS, and NASS. Those funds have already been spent on a variety of efforts at each of the agencies,<sup>11</sup> including the development of a first-ever survey of organic agriculture by NASS to be released in early May 2009.

Activities of AMS, ERS, and NASS require continued full support to build upon the previous investments. AMS has planned further enhancement of organic reporting and the development of additional organic market information tools. NASS is releasing its first-ever organic agriculture production survey in May, and will need funds to continue its data collection efforts. ERS will use additional targeted funds to continue expanding the agency's overall program of research and analysis of organic agriculture, and will work jointly with NASS to analyze the data from the organic production survey.

The 2008 Farm Bill provided additional authority up to \$5 million annually for ODI. We are asking the Subcommittee to exercise its full authority and allocate \$5 million for FY 10 to organic data collection, distributed among the three agencies leading this initiative. We anticipate that the President's budget will recommend a similar allocation and agency distribution.

#### **USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service**

##### **National Organic Program (NOP) OFRF FY 10 Request: \$6.7 million**

NOP (including the National Organic Standards Board, organic standards setting, certifier accreditation and enforcement) received an increased authorization for appropriations in the 2008 Farm Bill. \$8 million is the authorization level for FY 10. NOP has a large and growing number of important backlogged tasks. We support the President's FY 10 request for \$6.7 million.

The Organic Farming Research Foundation thanks the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit our requests. We ask the Subcommittee to provide funds to close the gap in research and education funding for organic agriculture, for the continued improvement and expansion of organic farming systems.

*Disclosure:* Organic Farming Research Foundation was a subcontractor for a grant awarded by the USDA-CSREES Integrated Organic Program. Grant # 2207-01384. "Midwest Organic Research Symposium."

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<sup>11</sup> For an update on the use of the funds, see "U.S. Department of Agriculture Report to Congress: Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities As Required by the 2008 Farm Bill." December 2008.

# MCFA

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## Minor Crop Farmer Alliance

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March 19, 2009

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

The Minor Crop Farmer Alliance is an alliance of national and regional organizations and individuals representing growers, shippers, packers, handlers, and processors of various agricultural commodities, including food, fiber, nursery, and horticultural products, and organizations involved with public health pesticides. Our members are extremely interested in the development of pest management tools and techniques that are environmentally sound. While our commodities are often called "minor crops," they are vitally important components in the diets (fruits and vegetables) of all Americans and they contribute to safe and aesthetic surroundings for our homes, schools and places of business (turf, ornamental and nursery crops). Specialty crop agriculture in the United States is valued at more than \$55 billion annually and accounts for more than 20% of the value of agricultural products grown in this country.

We request that \$8.4 million be provided to the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) in Fiscal Year 2010 specifically for the continuation of agricultural chemical use surveys for fruits, vegetables, floriculture and nursery crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) discontinued its Chemical Use Surveys for these commodities and has stated that it needs \$8.4 million in funding to continue the survey program.

The chemical usage surveys are the only source of publicly available data on agricultural pesticide and fertilizer use. The surveys are used by the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct risk assessments and make pesticide policy decisions. Farmers, commodity organizations and the public utilize the data to monitor pesticide and fertilizer use and it is essential data for use in public policy discussions and participation in rulemaking.

Proprietary data are available to verify NASS data in EPA risk assessments, but it cannot be used as the sole source of data because EPA cannot share the data with the public without violating the terms of its proprietary purchasing agreement. This proprietary data is not always gathered using appropriate sampling schemes, leaving gaps in the information even for specialty crops that are widely grown.

600 13th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
March 19, 2009  
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EPA relies on the NASS surveys to conduct pesticide risk assessments. Without the NASS survey data, EPA plans to default to 100 percent crop treated in future risk assessments. This could result in the cancellation of important crop protection tools for farmers. EPA has contacted USDA to communicate its strong support for the survey program.

The Congress included language in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Bill that provided \$2,450,000 to carry out the "Fruit Chemical Use Data Study." While we welcome these additional funds for NASS, we hope that in Fiscal Year 2010 the Congress will provide the full amount needed to continue all of these critical surveys for fruits, vegetables, nursery and floricultural crops.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Nursery & Landscape Association  
California Specialty Crops Council  
California Almond Board  
California Avocado Commission  
California Citrus Quality Council  
California Fig Advisory Board  
California Grape & Tree Fruit League  
California Processed Onion and Garlic Research Committee  
California Dried Plum Board  
California Strawberry Commission  
California Tree Fruit Agreement  
Cherry Marketing Institute, Inc.  
Cranberry Institute  
Del Monte Foods  
Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Tomato Exchange  
Food Products Association  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Michigan State Horticultural Society  
Michigan Vegetable Council Inc.  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Onion Association  
National Potato Council  
North Central Washington Fieldman's Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Produce Marketing Association  
Society of American Florists  
United Fresh Produce Association

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro

March 19, 2009

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USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, Inc.

U.S. Apple Association

U.S. Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee

Washington Association of Wine and Grape Growers

Washington Hops Commission

Washington State Potato Commission

Western Growers Association

Western Pistachio Association

Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine

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**Statement of**

**Santa Clara Valley Water District  
San Jose, California**

**May 2009**

**before the**

**United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service, PL-566 Small Watersheds Program**

**for**

**Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project  
Santa Clara County, California**

**Summary**

**This statement urges the Committee's support a Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation of \$12.8 million to continue the construction for the Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project.**

## **Statement of Support Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project**

**Background.** Lower Silver Creek is a major tributary to Coyote Creek and drains a portion of the City of San Jose. Over the past 50 years, Lower Silver Creek has experienced severe flooding that resulted in damage to residential, commercial and industrial properties. Because flooding is a major problem in this area, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is working in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District on a project to protect the surrounding area from a one percent flood event, improve stream habitat values, improve fisheries potential, and provide recreational access to the public. The total length of the project is approximately 2.2 miles. The funding being sought will allow for the completion of design and the initiation of construction activities on reaches 4-6.

**Study Synopsis.** Under authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), the NRCS completed an economic feasibility study (watershed plan) for constructing flood damage reduction facilities on Upper Penitencia Creek. Following the 1990 U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Bill, the NRCS watershed plan stalled due to the very high ratio of potential urban development flood damage compared to agricultural damage in the project area.

**Project Costs.** Total project costs for calculation of federal cost sharing are estimated to be \$38.3 million (2000 value). Under the traditional cost-sharing arrangement for NRCS projects, the NRCS funds 100 percent of the flood protection construction while the local sponsor funds utility relocation, bridge replacements, and right-of-way acquisitions. The nonfederal cost is approximately \$13.9 million, including right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and bridge replacement. NRCS will continue to pay 100 percent of construction costs for reaches 1 through 6. The benefit-to-cost ratio of the 1994 plan updated to 2000 values is 1.1 to 1.

To accelerate the project, the District entered into a reimbursement agreement with the NRCS in 1997 to use local funds to start construction, with the NRCS reimbursing the District for federal costs when funds are available. To date, the District has constructed Reaches 1-3 using local funds.

**Regional Significance.** This project will provide flood protection to approximately 5,400 properties resulting in the avoidance of damages from a one-percent flood in the project area which are estimated to be \$51 million (2000 value). This project will potentially create 2,940 jobs ranging from professional services to construction and labor type jobs. The project will also improve fish passage by eliminating barriers, restoring and creating shaded riverine aquatic habitat while constructing a low-flow channel throughout the project area.

**Fiscal Year 2009 Funding.** No appropriations to the project in Fiscal Year 2009.

**Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Recommendation.** It is requested that the Congressional Committee support an appropriation of \$12.8 million for the Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project to continue construction of the project.



**Statement of**

**Santa Clara Valley Water District  
San Jose, California**

**May 2009**

**before the**

**United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Marketing and Regulatory  
Programs – Animal Plant Health Inspection Service,  
Pest Detection Account**

**for**

**Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention - Vessel  
Inspection Program  
Santa Clara County, California**

**Summary**

**This statement urges the Committee's support a Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation of \$500,000 to prevent the spread of Quagga and Zebra Mussels into the domestic water supply of Santa Clara County, California.**

**Statement of Support  
Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention - Vessel Inspection Program**

**Program Justification.** Zebra and quagga mussels are invasive aquatic pests that have recently been introduced to portions of California. Recreational boating has been identified as a vector of introduction, and once introduced to a waterway, significant economic damage occurs because these pests reproduce prolifically clogging filters, pipes, pumps and critical infrastructure of agricultural, municipal and industrial water delivery systems. A mussel infestation corrupting the Bay Area and Sacramento Delta water channels will likely result in agricultural production losses and produce significant impacts to the environment and losses in local revenues from recreational boating. The County of Santa Clara (County) seeks funding to support current efforts in vessel inspection to prohibit pest introduction and mitigate further spread of the current mussel infestation in Southern California and San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) fully supports the counties' efforts.

**Description of the Program.** The Program's objective is to prevent the introduction and spread of zebra and quagga mussels into the waterways of Santa Clara County thereby protecting the local municipal and industrial water delivery systems that support the local agricultural industry and surrounding community. Once introduced, eradication of these pests is extremely costly. Ongoing costs to repair recurring damage to water supply infrastructure limits usefulness.

A U.S. study conducted by the Center For Aquatic Conservation at the University of Notre Dame and University of Wyoming suggests invasive species may be costing the Great Lakes region more than \$200 million a year in losses to commercial fishing, sport fishing, and the area's water supply, see <http://sgnis.org/publicat/proceed/aide/pime2003.htm> (July 17, 2008).

The USDA has surveyed various economic impacts on their federal website, <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/economic.shtml>. Various reports show startling and widespread economic impacts after these invasive species are introduced.

The District and County are in complete agreement with comments Senator Feinstein made in a letter to the former Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne that "over the last twenty years quagga mussels and their cousin, the zebra mussel, have caused billions of dollars in damages in the Great Lakes and other water bodies south and east of the Mississippi River" and "that biologists have determined that the quagga in the Lower Colorado River are reproducing at three to four times the rate of quagga in the Great Lakes, likely due to the warmer temperatures." The threat of these pests to Western waters cannot be overstated.

Agricultural proponents for invasive pest prevention efforts have asserted that every dollar spent on prevention saves twenty-four dollars in eradication efforts. However, considering the insidious nature of this pest, and the unlikeliness that it can be eradicated once introduced, the ongoing maintenance costs to repair damage will be staggering. Diligent Federal efforts must be made to support local inspection programs to avoid introduction of these pests into our uninfested waters, while simultaneously supporting recreational boating access.

In May 2008, the County, with support from the District, implemented a pilot vessel inspection program on County reservoirs which was designed to prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels. To date, the County has successfully 1) Assessed the vulnerability of the reservoir for the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels and 2) Developed and implemented a vessel inspection program designed to prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels. The program has included public education and outreach, physical vessel inspections and active management of recreational, boating and fishing activities.

The County with support from the District seeks to refine the pilot program by developing regional protocols and inspection standards that may serve as a "model program" for the rest of California and other states. Program funding will also be used to test and evaluate a newly developed vessel inspection database that will help the County track recreational boating activity, vessel inspections, inspection failures, vessel quarantines and other critical statistical data of boating activity within Santa Clara County. The development and successful implementation of inspection standards coupled with a reliable tracking database has the potential to bring uniformity to a multi-jurisdictional problem if expanded through partnerships into other locations throughout the State.

***Fiscal Year 2009 Funding.*** No appropriations for this program were requested in Fiscal Year 2009.

***Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Recommendation.*** It is requested that the Congressional Committee support an appropriation of \$500,000 for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention - Vessel Inspection Program to prevent the spread of Quagga and Zebra Mussels into the domestic water supply of Santa Clara County, California.



**Testimony of Kelly Shea  
Vice President, Government and Industry Relations, WhiteWave Foods**

My name is Kelly Shea, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of WhiteWave Foods regarding the growth of the organic industry and our support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Program. Specifically, we support providing the Program with \$8 million as authorized by Congress.

Headquartered in Broomfield, Colorado, WhiteWave Foods, a growing subsidiary of Dean Foods, is the home of several pioneer organic brands, including Horizon Organic, The Organic Cow, and Silk Soymilk. As the organic industry evolves, we continue to lead with insight, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to organic principles. With this in mind, we are strongly supportive of efforts to ensure the continued growth of the organic sector by providing additional funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program.

The National Organic Program (NOP) is rapidly outgrowing its present resource capacity. With retail sales at \$24 billion and continuing to grow, certified operations in excess of 26,000, and 98 accredited certifying agents operating globally, the current NOP budget continually struggles to keep up with growing demands.

Consumer confidence is the key to growth in the organic market. Ensuring continued consumer confidence requires consistent and adequate enforcement of the organic rule to ensure the integrity of the USDA organic seal. Therefore, adequate funding is required to enable the NOP to hire additional staff and continue to do a credible job of re-accreditation and investigating non-compliances. Additional resources are needed for both addressing gaps in the regulations and increasing compliance and enforcement activity. The long run objective is to maintain the integrity of the USDA organic seal for consumers who are willing to purchase organic products, produced according to a set of sustainable practices voluntarily subscribed to by producers and processors, based on legislation and regulations they initiated nearly two decades ago.

The baseline for the NOP for the 2009 Fiscal Year is approximately \$3 million. However, a portion of the budget is, and has been, a "pass-through" for funding of the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP). FSMIP provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. marketing system.

To facilitate the continued expansion of the organic industry, we support fully funding the operations of the NOP at the \$8 million level authorized by Congress.<sup>1</sup> We are strongly supportive of an increase in funding that could be allocated towards strengthening the accreditation process (training, education, audit, review, and compliance) for domestic and foreign certifying agents who are certifying to the NOP; international standards recognition and

<sup>1</sup> The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Section 10303: National Organic Program)



conformity assessment; standards development (new standards needed and continuing to improve existing standards as the industry develops); and enforcement through audits, investigative compliance and review (the NOP receives over 100 complaints per year).

We appreciate your consideration of our requests; we believe that this increased funding will be critical to the continued growth of the organic sector. We thank you for the opportunity to testify today and look forward to working with you in the future.

WHITEWAVE FOODS COMPANY 12002 AIRPORT WAY BROOMFIELD, COLORADO 80021

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM**  
**106 West 500 South, Suite 101**  
**Bountiful, UT 84010**  
**(801) 292-4663**  
**(801) 524-6320 (fax)**

April 28, 2009

Chairman Rosa DeLauro  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Chairman DeLauro:

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum has adopted a position supporting funding for the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Title II program. The testimony of the Forum is attached for your consideration.

We would appreciate you making this statement a part of the formal hearing record concerning FY 2010 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. We thank you for your Subcommittee's support of this program in years past and hope that you will again support funding to continue this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Jack A. Barnett  
Executive Director  
jbarnett@barnettwater.com

attachment

**Statement of  
the  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM**

**to the  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**Presented by  
JACK A. BARNETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
April 28, 2009**

**Requesting Appropriations  
for the  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM, TITLE II**

For the Department of Agriculture

FY 2010 Appropriation

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control, Title II  
Forum's Recommendation Concerning:  
Funding for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
Support the Senate-House Conference Agreement of \$1.45 Billion

Request there be designated to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program 2.5% of the EQIP funding

The Congress concluded that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) should be implemented in the most cost-effective way. The Program is funded by EQIP, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Basinwide Program, and a cost share for both of these programs provided by the Basin States. Realizing that agricultural on-farm strategies were some of the most cost-effective strategies, the Congress authorized a program for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through amendment of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (Act) in 1984. With the enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA), the Congress directed that the Program should continue to be implemented as one of the components of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Since the enactment of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA) in 2002, there have been, for the first time in a number of years, opportunities to adequately fund the Program within the EQIP. In 2008, Congress passed the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA). The FCEA addresses the cost sharing required from the Basin Funds. In so doing, the FCEA named the cost sharing requirement as the Basin States Program (BSP). The BSP will provide 30% of the total amount that will be spent each year by the combined EQIP and BSP effort.

The Program, as set forth in the Act, is to benefit Lower Basin water users hundreds of miles downstream from salt sources in the Upper Basin as the salinity of Colorado River water increases as the water flows downstream. There are very significant economic damages caused by high salt levels in this water source. Agriculturalists in the Upper Basin where the salt must be controlled, however, don't first look to downstream water quality standards but look for local benefits. These local benefits are in the form of enhanced beneficial use and improved crop yields. They submit cost-effective proposals to the State Conservationists in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado and offer to cost share in the acquisition of new irrigation equipment. It is the Act that provides that the seven Colorado River Basin States will also cost share with the federal funds for this effort. This has brought together a remarkable partnership.

After longstanding urgings from the states and directives from the Congress, the USDA has concluded that this program is different than small watershed enhancement efforts common to the EQIP. In the case of the Colorado River salinity control effort, the watershed to be considered stretches more than 1,200 miles from the river's headwater in the Rocky Mountains to the river's terminus in the Gulf of California in Mexico and receives water from numerous tributaries. The USDA has determined that this effort should receive a special funding designation and has appointed a coordinator for this multi-state effort.

In recent fiscal years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has directed that about \$19 million of EQIP funds be used for the Program. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) appreciates the efforts of the NRCS leadership and the support of this subcommittee. The plan for water quality control of the Colorado River was prepared by the Forum, adopted by the states, and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council has taken the position that the funding for the salinity control program should not be below \$20 million per year. Over the last three fiscal years, for the first time, funding almost reached the needed level. State and local cost-sharing is triggered by the federal appropriation. In FY 09, it is anticipated that the states will cost share with about \$8 million and local agriculture producers will add more than \$7 million. Hence, it is anticipated that in FY 09 the state and local contributions will be about 45% of the total program cost.

Over the past few years, the NRCS has designated that about 2.5% of the EQIP funds be allocated to the Colorado River salinity control program. The Forum believes this is the appropriate future level of funding as long as the total EQIP funding nationwide is more than \$1 billion. Funding above this level assists in offsetting pre-fiscal year 2003 funding below this level. The Basin States have cost sharing dollars available to participate in funding on-farm salinity control efforts. The agricultural producers in the Upper Basin are waiting for their applications to be considered so that they might improve their irrigation equipment and also cost share in the Program.

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Program was authorized by the Congress in 1974. The Title I portion of the Act responded to commitments that the United States made, through a Minute of the International Boundary and Water Commission, to Mexico specific to the quality of



water being delivered to Mexico below Imperial Dam. Title II of the Act established a program to respond to salinity control needs of Colorado River water users in the United States and to comply with the mandates of the then newly-enacted Clean Water Act. This testimony is in support of funding for the Title II program.

After a decade of investigative and implementation efforts, the Basin States concluded that the Act needed to be amended. The Congress agreed and made a major revision to the Act in 1984. That revision, while keeping the Department of the Interior as lead coordinator for Colorado River Basin salinity control efforts, also gave new salinity control responsibilities to the USDA. The Congress has charged the Administration with implementing the most cost-effective program practicable (measured in dollars per ton of salt controlled). It has been determined that the agricultural efforts are some of the most cost-effective opportunities.

Since Congressional mandates of more than three decades ago, much has been learned about the impact of salts in the Colorado River system. The BOR has conducted studies on the economic impact of these salts. The BOR recognizes that the damages to United States' water users alone are hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

The Forum is composed of gubernatorial appointees from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Forum has become the seven-state coordinating body for interfacing with federal agencies and the Congress in support of the implementation of the Salinity Control Program. In close cooperation with the EPA and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act, every three years the Forum prepares a formal report evaluating the salinity of the Colorado River, its anticipated future salinity, and the program elements necessary to keep the salinity concentrations (measured in Total Dissolved Solids – TDS) at or below the levels measured in the river system in 1972 at Imperial Dam, and below Parker and Hoover Dams.

In setting water quality standards for the Colorado River system, the salinity concentrations at these three locations in 1972 have been identified as the numeric criteria. The plan necessary for controlling salinity and reducing downstream damages has been captioned the "Plan of Implementation." The 2008 Review of water quality standards includes an updated Plan of Implementation. In order to eliminate the shortfall in salinity control resulting from inadequate federal funding for a number of years from the USDA, the Forum has determined that implementation of the Program needs to be accelerated. The level of appropriation requested in this testimony is in keeping with the agreed upon plan. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages from the higher salt concentrations in the water will be more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

Concentrations of salts in the river cause well over \$300 million in quantified damages and significantly more in unquantified damages in the United States and result in poorer quality water being delivered by the United States to Mexico. Damages occur from:

- a reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use for

leaching in the agricultural sector,

- a reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector,
- an increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector,
- an increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector,
- a decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector,
- difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and
- increased use of imported water for leaching and cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

#### **STATE COST-SHARING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The authorized cost sharing by the Basin States, as provided by FAIRA, was at first difficult to implement as attorneys for the USDA concluded that the Basin States were authorized to cost share in the effort, but the Congress had not given the USDA authority to receive the Basin States' funds. After almost a year of exploring every possible solution as to how the cost sharing was to occur, the states, in agreement with Reclamation, state officials in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming and with NRCS State Conservationists in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, agreed upon a program parallel to the salinity control activities provided by the EQIP wherein the states' cost sharing funds are being contributed and used. We now have several years of experience with that program and with the passage of FCEA we now have a clear authority for this program that is now known as the BSP.

The Act designates that the Secretary of the Interior provide the coordination for the federal agencies involved in the salinity control program. That responsibility has been delegated to the BOR. The BOR administers the Basin States cost sharing funds that have been used in the Parallel Program. The BOR requested that there be enacted clearer authority for the use of these funds.

With respect to the use of Basin States' cost sharing funds in the past, the Basin States felt that it was most essential that a portion of the Program be associated with technical assistance (TA) and education activities in the field. Without this necessary support, there is no advanced planning, proposals are not well prepared, assertions in the proposals cannot be verified, implementation of contracts cannot be observed, and valuable partnering and education efforts cannot occur. Recognizing these values, the BSP designates 40% of the funds available on these needed TA activities made

possible by contracts with the NRCS.

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Testimony of  
**Richard B. Marchase, Ph.D., President**  
**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)**

**FY 2010 Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture,  
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative**

Submitted to the  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on Agriculture**  
  
**Representative Rosa DeLauro, Chair**  
**Representative Jack Kingston, Ranking Member**

**April 16, 2009**

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), we **respectfully request the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the United States Department of Agriculture be funded at \$300 million in FY 2010.** FASEB strongly believes we must maintain and magnify the breadth and competitive nature of the agricultural research portfolio, to ensure the United States' economic vitality and the well-being of all Americans.

As a Federation of 22 professional scientific societies, FASEB represents nearly 90,000 life scientists, making us the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the nation. FASEB's mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences, including the research funded by AFRI, through service to its member societies and collaborative advocacy. FASEB enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people.

Greater investment in basic and applied agricultural research is essential, as the demand for a safer and more nutritious food supply continues to increase. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 established the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, a new competitive grants program at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As the successor to the National Research Initiative, AFRI integrates the basic research which provides the seeds from which all scientific and technological advancement will grow and the translational and applied research which brings these key discoveries to our nation's farms and citizen's daily lives. A recent report by the Economic Research Service (ERS) found "strong and consistent evidence that investment in agricultural research has yielded high returns per dollar spent" citing mean rates of returns of 53 percent<sup>1</sup>. However, our nation's investment in agricultural research has been declining, threatening our ability to sustain the vitality of our research portfolio. The establishment of AFRI, as well as the new National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

<sup>1</sup> Fuglie, KO and Heisey PW. (2007) *Economic returns to public agricultural research*. USDA Economic Research Service, Economic Brief # 10. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB10/>

which will have oversight over AFRI and other USDA research programs, presents an unparalleled opportunity for revitalization of our agricultural research system.

Agriculture and the research which advances it remain of crucial importance to our economy and quality of life. Research supported by the USDA contributes to our understanding of the nutrition that underlies our health; it protects human life and our food supply from pandemic disease and introduced pathogens; it allows us to respond quickly to emerging issues like Colony Collapse Disorder or foot and mouth disease; and has led the way in development of bioenergy resources. As Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture stated, "Every fruit, vegetable, and cut of meat the public eats has a research story behind it... The investment in agriculture research affects our daily lives now, and it will affect our lives even more in the future." (March 7, 2007)

#### **Human Nutrition, Health, and Policy**

Nutrition is the foundation upon which human and animal health is built, and whose mysteries fascinate the American people like no other aspect of science. This is perhaps most evident in the daily news stories that seek to uncover the optimal diet required to maximize health or minimize risk of disease. Research has identified the critical role that nutrition plays in a myriad of health conditions, from cancer to heart disease to diabetes. Perhaps the most striking evidence of the importance of nutrition to health is the alarming increase in the rates of obesity in this country, especially in children and adolescents. Further research is essential as we seek to understand the causes, both innate and environmental, of this public health crisis.

The USDA is uniquely positioned to conduct nutrition and food-related research because of its singular perspective on the entire food system, from crop to livestock to food supply to human consumption. No other agency has the capacity to understand the connection between food, the food supply and its production, and the health of our nation. Through its competitive research program, the USDA is making the connection between what we eat and the healthiness of our lifestyle.

As our economy struggles to recover from decline and more Americans are suddenly faced with the challenge of feeding their families on a reduced income, affordable nutritious food should be a national priority. Through cutting-edge research we can improve yields, efficiencies, and nutritional value to ensure ample food for all during tough economic times.

#### **Safety of Our Food Supply**

In the past two years, our national attention has focused on food safety and the security of our food supply. The CDC estimates that 5,000 deaths and 76 million illnesses are caused each year by foodborne diseases<sup>2</sup>. The most recent outbreak, contamination of peanut products with salmonella, highlights the urgent need for increased investment in food safety. AFRI is at the forefront of developing new technologies to protect our food supply and discovering new ways to

<sup>2</sup> Mead, P. *et al.* (1999) Food related illness and death in the United States. *Emerging Infectious Disease*, Vol. 5. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/Vol5no5/mead.htm>

detect and neutralize threats to our crops, livestock, and food products. Research activities range from food-borne illnesses to microbial resistance to food processing safety to biosecurity at our borders. Agricultural research is addressing concerns not only related to our domestic supply of foods, but those items that we import from international partners, as well. As the U.S. forges new ties and reinforces existing relationships in our increasingly global economy, it becomes even more critically important to ensure agricultural research is delivering the knowledge to protect our citizens and the foods they eat.

#### **Bioenergy and Climate Change**

Agricultural and forestry resources are vitally important to both our development of biobased resources and our ability to address the threat of climate change. As House Minority Leader John Boehner stated last November, "One of the great accomplishments of the 111th Congress and President Obama's initial years in office could be the implementation of an ... energy strategy that bolsters American-made energy, encourages conservation and efficiency, and promotes the use of renewable and alternative fuels." Bioenergy has the potential to not only reduce our dependence on foreign oils but to provide a clean, sustainable fuel source that will mitigate the factor contributing to global climate change. The USDA funds research projects that produce science-based knowledge and technologies supporting the efficient, economical, and environmentally friendly conversion of biomass into value-added industrial products and biofuels. Furthermore, USDA funded research is responding to the issue of climate change by contributing to our understanding of the causes and effects of this phenomenon and how to best protect our natural resources.

#### **Responding to Emerging Threats**

When beekeepers across the country began to report the alarming and mysterious loss of 50-90 percent of bees from their hives, the USDA took the lead in mobilizing research resources to find the source of what is now known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). This is only one example of how a unique and emerging agricultural threat can swiftly challenge our nation's economy, health or food supply. A new outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Europe, the looming specter of avian flu, and the continuing threat of mad cow disease all illustrate the need for the research resources required to address new and emerging pathogens and diseases. Only with an adequately funded agriculture research infrastructure can our nation be prepared to react and rapidly counter threats to our health and food supply.

#### **The United States is Best Served Through Investment in Agricultural Research**

From the critical basic research supported at universities throughout the nation to the important work carried out by the Human Nutrition Research Centers, USDA research programs deserve to be supported at the highest level possible. We must maintain and magnify the breadth and competitive nature of the agricultural research portfolio, to ensure the United States' economic vitality and the well-being of all Americans. **FASEB recommends the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the United States Department of Agriculture be funded at \$300 million in FY 2010.**

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**R-CALF USA's Public Witness Testimony for the Record  
 Regarding the  
 U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
 Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
 Public Hearing on Food Safety Oversight  
 Held on March 26, 2009**

R-CALF USA represents thousands of independent farmers and ranchers that raise and sell cattle and we appreciate Congress' efforts to repair our nation's broken food safety systems. We do not presume to know how to repair every facet of our nation's food system. But, equal to or better than any other source, we know our U.S. cattle industry. The U.S. cattle industry is the largest segment of U.S. agriculture<sup>1</sup> and cattle producers want to help you develop an effective strategy to protect the safety and security of our nations' food supply for U.S. consumers.

However, we cannot help if we are not starting at the same point as Congress when identifying the root cause of our nation's food safety and food security deficiencies. From R-CALF USA's experience and observations, our nation is at a crucial crossroads: we must undertake immediate steps to restore and rebuild the exemplary cattle and beef production system that earned the U.S. the reputation of producing the best and safest beef in the world under the best of conditions; or relegate ourselves to addressing only symptoms, rather than successfully curing the cause of a fundamentally flawed cattle and beef production system that has manifested in recent years.

We trust that Congress will desire to pursue the former, and recognize the latter as inherently unsafe and unsustainable. It would be a disastrous mistake, for example, to focus on complete food traceability – from cattle birth to beef on the plate – as the centerpiece of Congress' food safety reform even though such an approach may seem both attractive and reasonable. However, such an approach would: 1) cast a wider net than is necessary to target the demonstrated point of meat contamination, which is at slaughtering facilities; 2) condone the recently manifested and fundamentally flawed cattle and beef production systems by leaving these presently flawed systems in place; and 3) disadvantage the remaining cattle production enterprises that still represent the exemplary system that continually produces safe, healthy cattle by overburdening these cattle producers with costs that do not return safer food to the consumer.

We strongly support efforts to achieve traceability from the final beef product back to the slaughterhouse where beef is produced. Such traceability would pinpoint where intestinal-borne pathogens, such as *E. coli* O157 (STEC 0157), contaminated otherwise safe meat. In addition to

<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Farm Sector Cash Receipts from Sales of Agriculture Commodities, 2004-2008F, U.S. Department of Agriculture (hereafter "USDA"), Economic Research Service (hereafter "USDA ERS"), available at [http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/farmincome/data/cr\\_t3.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/farmincome/data/cr_t3.htm).

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this after-the-fact traceability, however, food safety reform must address the large volumes of pathogen-contaminated beef that is escaping under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) food safety inspection regime. Knowing that HACCP has repeatedly failed to ensure proper sanitary practices at major slaughterhouses strongly suggests that HACCP reform should be the centerpiece of any effort to improve meat product safety. In fact, unless fundamental reforms are made to the failed HACCP system, prevention of food contamination will remain unattainable and macro food safety problems will persist.

It is R-CALF USA's contention that the recent corporatization, concentration, and consolidation of the U.S. cattle and beef industries is the root cause of increased food safety problems and represents an abrupt and radical departure from the exemplary, and inherently safer, system that is still within our grasp – provided Congress does not stamp it out completely while attempting to mitigate the systemic problems arising from the evolving, corporate-controlled cattle and beef production system.

Congress should not impose additional costs and regulations on our nation's remaining cattle farmers and ranchers – those who yet comprise the heretofore exemplary cattle production system that continually produces safe and healthy cattle – unless a congressional investigation bears out such a need. This investigation should fully explore the relationship between recent increases in meat-borne illnesses and: 1) the recent corporatization of live cattle production; 2) the recent vertical integration of live cattle feeding and slaughtering facilities; and 3) the recent concentration and consolidation of U.S. packing plants.

A congressional investigation of this type would reveal that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that the U.S. experienced only 7 food-borne illness outbreaks transmitted via beef in 1996.<sup>2</sup> But, by 2007 the incidence of food-borne pathogens such as *E. coli* 0157 (STEC 0157) were on the increase. The CDC reported that “21 beef product recalls for possible contamination with STEC 0157 were issued in 2007.”<sup>3</sup>

Importantly, an investigation would also reveal that during this same 12-year period, when food-borne illnesses began to increase, the following circumstances unfolded to seriously undermine the cattle and beef industries' ability to continually provide safe and secure food:

1. Although demand-side beef market fundamentals were very favorable, including a 5 percent increase in the beef demand index,<sup>4</sup> a 5 percent increase in domestic beef consumption,<sup>5</sup> and a

<sup>2</sup> See Surveillance for Food-Borne Illness Outbreaks – United States, 1993-1997, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (hereafter “DHHS CDC”), March 17, 2000, at 41, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/ss/ss4901.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary FoodNet Data on the Incidence of Infection with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food-10 States, 2007, DHHS CDC, MMWR Weekly, 57(14); 366-370, April 11, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> See Annual Choice Retail Beef Demand Index 1980-2008, Kansas State University (using a 1998=100 index determinate, the beef demand index increased from 105.9 in 1996 to 110.7 in 2008), available at <http://www.agmanager.info/livestock/marketing/graphs/Meat%20Demand/Beef%20Demand/AnnualBeefDemandIndexTable/AnnRetailChoiceBeefDemandIndexTable.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> Domestic beef consumption increased from 11.903 million metric tons in 1996 to 12.520 million metric tons in



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huge 54 percent increase in retail beef prices,<sup>6</sup> the U.S. cattle industry shrank at an alarming rate. It shrank in terms of the number of producers, size of the U.S. cattle herd, and under-production. For example:

- a. 143,680 beef cattle operations exited the U.S. cattle industry at a loss-rate of nearly 12,000 operations per year.<sup>7</sup> Today, 757,000 beef cattle operations remain, and of those, only 73,000 beef cattle operations have a herd size of 100 or more cattle<sup>8</sup> – which is a minimal size for an economically viable, full-time beef cattle operation.
  - b. The U.S. lost 25,000 small farmer-feeders – those with feedlot capacities of less than 1,000 head – who exited the industry at a loss-rate of more than 2000 per year.<sup>9</sup>
  - c. The size of the U.S. cattle herd fell over 9 percent<sup>10</sup> – by over 9 million head – and beef production from U.S.-born cattle increased by only 3 percent,<sup>11</sup> which means that production from U.S.-born cattle did not keep pace with expanding domestic beef consumption, even while more cattle were slaughtered due to herd liquidations.
2. The feeding sector of the U.S. cattle industry consolidated rapidly, with the number of large feedlot operations with capacities of over 50,000 head increasing by 29 percent.<sup>12</sup>

2008. See Beef and Veal Summary Selected Countries, Livestock and Poultry, World Markets and Trade, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, October 2008, (domestic beef consumption), available at [http://ffas.usda.gov/dlp/circular/2008/livestock\\_poultry\\_10-2008.pdf](http://ffas.usda.gov/dlp/circular/2008/livestock_poultry_10-2008.pdf); see also *id.*, 1995-1998, available at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/dlp2/circular/1999/99-10LP/catsumm.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> See Beef Values and Price Spreads, USDA ERS, available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodpricespreads/meatpricespreads/>; see also Retail Price Spreads, Red Meat Yearbook, USDA ERS, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/data-sets/livestock/94006/>.

<sup>7</sup> See Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations, 2008 Summary, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (hereafter "USDA NASS"), February 2009, at 14, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/FarmLandIn/FarmLandIn-02-12-2009.pdf>; see also Cattle, USDA NASS, January 1997, at 17, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/Catt/1990s/1997/Catt-01-31-1997.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> See Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations, 2008 Summary, USDA NASS, February 2009, at 14, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/FarmLandIn/FarmLandIn-02-12-2009.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> The number of U.S. feedlots with a capacity of less than 1000 head shrank from 110,000 in 1996 to 85,000 in 2007. See Cattle Final Estimates, 2004-2008, USDA NASS, March 2009, at 75, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/SB989/sb1019.pdf>; see also Cattle Final Estimates, 1994-98, USDA NASS, January 1999, at 81, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/SB989/sb953.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> See Table 103 – U.S. Cattle Inventory January 1 and July 1, Red Meat Yearbook, USDA ERS, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1354>; see also Cattle, USDA NASS, January 2009, at 1, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/Catt/Catt-01-30-2009.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> R-CALF USA calculated the production of beef derived exclusively from U.S.-borne cattle by subtracting the carcass weight equivalent of annual imported cattle from USDA ERS production data. This calculation reveals the production of beef produced exclusively from U.S.-born cattle has remained flat since 1996. A graph depicting this flat domestic production is available at <http://www.r-calfusa.com/Competition/090225-PresentationToSecretaryVilsack.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> The number of U.S. feedlots with a capacity of over 50,000 head increased from 45 in 1996 to 58 in 2007. See Cattle Final Estimates, 2004-2008, USDA NASS, March 2009, at 74, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/SB989/sb1019.pdf>; see also Cattle Final Estimates, 1994-98, USDA NASS, January 1999, at 80, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/SB989/sb953.pdf>.

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3. The beef packing industry became highly concentrated, with the number of federally inspected firms that slaughter cattle falling by 22 percent,<sup>13</sup> and the four largest firms, which controlled approximately 80 percent of the nation's fed cattle slaughter in the mid-'90s,<sup>14</sup> now control over 85 percent of the nation's fed cattle slaughter.<sup>15</sup>
4. USDA has increased U.S. exposure to contaminated meat products from abroad. Prior to 1996, foreign countries were required to have meat and poultry inspection systems "at least equal" to those in the United States. However, pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement Act, USDA abandoned this important standard stating "[u]nder this new law, the United States can no longer require foreign countries wishing to export meat and poultry products to have meat and poultry inspection systems that are "at least equal" to those in the United States. . ."<sup>16</sup> After 1996, foreign meat and poultry systems have been subject only to the lesser standard of "equivalent to" those in the U.S. and, as empirical evidence now demonstrates, this standard is ineffective at ensuring food safety. Evidence uncovered by USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) in 2005 shows that USDA allowed foreign meatpacking plants to export meat to the U.S. even though they were not meeting even the lesser "equivalent to" standard for over two years.<sup>17</sup>
5. Not only has USDA relieved exporting countries from the requirement that their inspection systems be "at least equal" to those in the U.S., but also, USDA has further increased U.S. exposure to contaminated meat by reducing the frequency of its inspections of foreign meatpacking plants. Beginning in 2004, USDA ceased conducting monthly inspections of foreign meatpacking plants and began performing only "periodic supervisory visits."<sup>18</sup>
6. USDA has increased the United States' exposure to foreign animal diseases by abrogating its responsibility under the Animal Health Protection Act to restrict imports to "prevent the introduction into . . . the United States of any pest or disease of livestock."<sup>19</sup> Instead, USDA has unilaterally adopted a much weaker standard of *allowing* even animal diseases that can be

<sup>13</sup> The number of U.S. federally inspected packing plants that slaughter cattle fell from 812 firms in 1996 to 630 firms in 2008. See *Livestock Slaughter, 2008 Summary*, USDA NASS, March 2009, at 56, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/LiveSlauSu/LiveSlauSu-03-06-2009.pdf>; see also *Livestock Slaughter*, USDA NASS, March 1997, at 85, available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/LiveSlau/1990s/1997/LiveSlau-03-21-1997.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> See *Packers and Stockyards Statistical Report, 2006 Reporting Year*, USDA, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, May 2008, at 44, available at [http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/pubs/2006\\_stat\\_report.pdf](http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/pubs/2006_stat_report.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> See *Complaint by U.S. Department of Justice and 17 States against JBS S.A. and National Beef Packing Company, LLC, United States v. JBS S.A.*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Case No. 08 C 5992, at 3.

<sup>16</sup> 60 *Federal Register*, at 38668, col. 1.

<sup>17</sup> See *Audit Report, Food Safety and Inspection Service Assessment of the Equivalence of the Canadian Inspection Service*, Report No. 24601-05-Hy, December 2005, at 4 (The report stated, "Timely actions have not been taken because FSIS does not have protocols or guidelines for evaluating deficiencies in a country's inspection system that could jeopardize a country's overall equivalence determination. In addition, FSIS did not institute compensating controls to ensure that public health was not compromised while deficiencies were present. Over 4.4 billion pounds of Canadian processed product entered U.S. commerce from January 1, 2003 through May 31, 2005").

<sup>18</sup> 69 *Federal Register*, at 51194, col. 1.

<sup>19</sup> 7 U.S.C. 8303 (a)(1).

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transmitted to humans to be introduced into the U.S. so long as the agency believes the disease would not likely become *established* in the U.S. cattle population. For example:

- a. USDA's base-case risk model for its final bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) rule regarding the importation of Canadian cattle over 30 months (OTM) of age predicted that the final rule would introduce 19 BSE-infected cattle into the U.S. and cause infection in 2 U.S. cattle over the next 20 years.<sup>20</sup> Despite this risk, the agency defended its final rule stating, "Under this rule, the likelihood of BSE exposure and establishment in the U.S. cattle population as a consequence of infectivity introduced via imports from Canada is 'negligible.'"<sup>21</sup> (Emphasis added.) Allowing 19 BSE-infected cattle to enter the U.S. not only endangers the U.S. cattle herd, but more importantly, these OTM cattle go directly into the U.S. food supply!
- b. USDA continues to allow the introduction of bovine tuberculosis (bovine TB) into the U.S. despite the 2006 OIG finding that 75 percent of the bovine TB cases detected by U.S. slaughter surveillance originated in Mexico.<sup>22</sup> The OIG explained that because Mexican cattle spend many months on U.S. farms and ranches prior to slaughter, each bovine TB case is potentially spreading the disease in the United States.<sup>23</sup>

The foregoing demonstrates that the United States' cattle and beef production system, which is unequalled anywhere in the world for providing safe reliable beef to consumers, is fast being destroyed by government inaction toward antitrust violations, anticompetitive practices, and unsafe and unsustainable import policies. Our U.S. cattle and beef production system, historically dominated by widely dispersed family farmers, ranchers, and independent businesses, is now eminently threatened by a corporate dominance incapable of guaranteeing a comparable level of food safety, food reliability, and food security for U.S. consumers.

R-CALF USA implores Congress to immediately involve the yet non-corporatized segment of the U.S. cattle industry to assist in identifying and targeting the causes and sources of our nation's food safety problems, and we request that Congress not impose unnecessary and costly remedial measures on those segments of the U.S. cattle industry that have continually produced only the safest and healthiest cattle in the world.

Sincerely,

<sup>20</sup> See 72 Federal Register, at 53347, col. 1.

<sup>21</sup> *R-CALF USA et al. v. USDA et al.*, CIV-07-1023, Defendants' Statement of Facts in Support of Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion For Preliminary Injunction, at 11; see also 73 Fed. Reg., 54087, col. 3 (USDA assumed that infected animals could be imported into the United States under the OTM Rule but determined this was acceptable on the basis that "our conclusion that the risk of the exposure of U.S. cattle and the establishment of BSE in the United States was negligible." (Emphasis added.)).

<sup>22</sup> See Audit Report: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Control Over the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, USDA Office of Inspector General, Midwest Region, Report No. 50601-0009-Ch, September 2006, at 19, 20.

<sup>23</sup> See *id.*, at iii.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. M. Thornsberry" followed by a stylized flourish.

R.M. Thornsberry, D.V.M., MBA  
President, R-CALF USA Board of Directors

Alliance for Community Trees  
American Forest Foundation  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Nursery & Landscape Association  
City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation Bureau of Forestry  
City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works, Forestry Division  
Davey Institute  
International Maple Syrup Institute  
National Association of State Foresters  
Natural Biodiversity  
The Nature Conservancy  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
North American Maple Syrup Council, Inc.  
The Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Purdue University, Department of Entomology  
Society of American Florists  
Society of Municipal Arborists  
The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
University of Georgia, Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

April 7, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairperson  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriation for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,  
Emerging Plant Pests

Dear Chairperson DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

We urge the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies to increase funding substantially for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Emerging Plant Pests program. A sharp increase in

funding is necessary in order to ensure adequate funding for eradication and control efforts targeting the Asian longhorned beetle, sudden oak death pathogen, emerald ash borer, and Sirex woodwasp. All four foreign and invasive species threaten trees in our forests and communities and related economic values worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

This coalition represents a widely diverse group of stakeholders that are unified in support of the following program areas. This statement of common goals supplements individual letters submitted to the Subcommittee by several of these organizations. Some of these individual letters address additional issues.

#### ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

We seek an appropriation of \$35 million for FY2010 to carry out eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle. Our request is nearly twice the current level of funding (approximately \$19.8 million). This substantial increase is sought because of the ruinous threat that the Asian longhorned beetle poses to hardwood forests reaching from New England into Minnesota and in the West, and to the dependent hardwood timber, maple syrup, and autumn foliage tourism industries, and to street trees across the Nation. APHIS and its state partners have made considerable progress in containing the Asian longhorned beetle since it was first detected in 1996. The Chicago and some New Jersey outbreaks have been declared eradicated. However, other outbreaks in the New York metropolitan area persist and have spread to additional areas (e.g. Staten Island).

Hopes of protecting street trees nationwide and Northeastern forests suffered a heavy blow when an Asian longhorned beetle outbreak was detected in Worcester, Massachusetts in August 2008. The beetle has been present in Worcester for more than 10 years; more than 4,000 trees have become infested. There are 635,000 vulnerable trees in the immediate vicinity.

While \$24 million in emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation has been made available to cut infested trees in Worcester, much more will need to be done in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey to ensure eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle. Only eradication can protect the forests across the northern states.

#### PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM

We support a request for \$10 million in appropriations for FY2010 to contain Phytophthora ramorum, known commonly as sudden oak death pathogen or phytophthora leaf and stem blight pathogen. Our request would almost double the current funding level of \$5.3 million. Phytophthora ramorum threatens more than 100 North American plant species, including such widespread trees in eastern forests and urban/suburban landscapes as oaks, black walnut, sugar maple, and magnolias. To protect hardwood forests across the continent, as well as our city and suburban landscapes, APHIS must address more effectively the spread of this pathogen through the commercial trade. Despite four years' of efforts, in 2008 28 nurseries still had infected plants. While significantly fewer than in 2004, when more than 200 nurseries had infected plants, the risk to forests and ornamental landscapes remains as long as the pathogen continues to be found on plants in trade. Five of the nurseries with infected plants in 2008 are in states with extensive oak-dominated forests – Florida, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Texas. Soil and vegetation in the nursery in Mississippi and another in Georgia continue to be infested in February 2009. This disease damages the nursery industry itself because it attacks many common ornamental species, including rhododendrons and camellias that have an annual value of more than \$250 million. To put an end to this threat, APHIS needs funding to continue expanding and supporting public and private research which defines and supports improved nursery management practices that will eliminate the pathogen.

## SIREX WOODWASP

The FY09 Omnibus appropriations bill contains the first Congressional appropriation to combat the Sirex woodwasp, which poses a serious threat to pine resources across the Continent. We seek an increase in this appropriation to \$5 million.

First detected in 2005, the Sirex woodwasp is now known to occupy an area across much of New York State, seven counties in Pennsylvania, one county in Vermont and four counties in Michigan, as well as a significant area in southern Ontario Province, and one area in Quebec Province, Canada. The woodwasp threatens valuable pine timber resources, especially those of the Southeast. Among the most vulnerable pines is loblolly pine – the backbone of the softwood timber and pulp industry in the Southeast. Other pines that are highly vulnerable to the Sirex woodwasp are other species in the Southeast (shortleaf, slash, and Virginia pines), midwest (Jack pine and red pine), and across the West (lodgepole, ponderosa, and Jeffrey). Damage to the pine timber resource could reach \$17 billion if the woodwasp is allowed to spread to the Southeast and West.

Woodwasp larvae can easily be transported inside untreated wood products – especially logs destined for telephone poles and log homes; lumber, crates and pallets; and firewood. It is essential that APHIS receive \$5 million in FY2010 to implement a program including regulatory and educational components aimed at preventing movement of infested wood, nursery stock, and other materials that spread the insect. Additionally this funding would support the establishment of available biocontrol organisms to manage this pest on a long term basis.

## EMERALD ASH BORER

We seek an appropriation of \$30 million for FY2010 to contain the emerald ash borer. This represents a decrease from the level provided in the FY09 Omnibus appropriations bill. The emerald ash borer threatens sixteen species of ash across the continent, especially in the upper Midwest and Southeast. At risk are the \$25 billion ash timber industry in the Northeast, street trees across the Nation valued at \$20 to \$60 billion, and myriad trees found in our neighborhoods and parks. Ash represent close to a third of the total tree resource for many towns in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska; and as much as 60 percent of the trees in some North Dakota communities. As a result, failure to contain and suppress the emerald ash borer will force cities and towns across the Midwest and Plains states to spend millions of dollars to remove dead and dying trees. For example, Ann Arbor, Michigan spent nearly \$4 million to cut down 10,000 trees. Removal and replacement of the 97,000 ash trees growing along Chicago's streets is estimated to cost \$150 million – and this does not include the value of the trees themselves.

The emerald ash borer outbreak is too large to be eradicated. The core of the infestation occupies much of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and nearby Indiana and Ohio. Separate outbreaks have been detected in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and – farther away – in Maryland, Missouri, Virginia, and West Virginia. Most of these outbreaks were caused by the movement of infested nursery stock or firewood. An appropriation at the suggested level will allow APHIS to work with partners to carry out detection surveys to locate additional emerald ash borer outbreaks; apply regulatory measures and public education to deter people from transporting infested wood; and research improved detection methods (traps and lures) and suppression methodologies – largely through biological control. Past eradication efforts utilizing widespread cutting of at-risk trees are largely discontinued and are no longer funded by APHIS.

In addition to the appropriations needed to support these line items in APHIS's Emerging Plant Pest program, we also strongly support the Congress' numerous statements urging the Administration to release emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) sufficient to enable full implementation of these management plans. The combination of the appropriations and the release of CCC funds are necessary to accomplish the needed tasks.

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine works closely with the USDA Forest Service and other partners – particularly through cooperative funding agreements with state forestry, state departments of agriculture and state Land Grant Universities - to carry-out much of the survey and detection activities related to non-native introduced tree diseases and insect pests

Action now at the funding level requested would help ensure that these forest pests do not reach populations so large as to threaten trees in our forests and communities, garden nursery stock, and related economic activities worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bendick, Director, Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy  
 Robert K. Davies, New York State Forester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Drue DeBerry, Senior Vice President, Conservation, American Forest Foundation  
 Dr. G. Keith Douce, Co-Director, Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health, and Professor of Entomology, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia  
 Jay Farrell, Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters  
 Gary Gaudette, President, International Maple Syrup Institute  
 Michael A. Girard, President, North American Maple Syrup Council, Inc.  
 Dan Hartman, President, Society of Municipal Arborists  
 Joseph J. McCarthy, Senior City Forester, Bureau of Forestry, City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation  
 Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., Ph.D., President, The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
 Anand B. Persad, Ph.D., B.C.E., Regional Technical Advisor, Davey Institute  
 Craig Regelbrugge, Vice President, Government Relations and Research, American Nursery & Landscape Association  
 Carl G. Roe, Executive Director, The Pennsylvania Game Commission  
 Thomas D. Saunders, President, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
 Lin Schmale, Senior Director - Government Relations, Society of American Florists  
 Kristin Sewak, Director, Natural Biodiversity  
 David B. Sivyler, Forestry Services Manager, Forestry Division, City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works  
 Elizabeth VanDersad, Vice President, Government Affairs, American Forest & Paper Association  
 Alice Ewen Walker, Executive Director, Alliance for Community Trees  
 Phyllis N. Windle, Director, Invasive Species, Union of Concerned Scientists  
 Steve Yaninek, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology, Purdue University

Page 4 of 4



TESTIMONY OF JEFF TRANDAHL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED  
AGENCIES REGARDING FY 2010 BUDGET FOR THE  
**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Madam Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding FY 2010 funding for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation). We appreciate the Subcommittee's past support and respectfully request your approval of **\$5 million through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Operations appropriation in FY 2010**. This funding request is authorized and would allow the Foundation to expand our historical partnership with NRCS.

In 2009, the Foundation is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a remarkable history of bringing private partners together to leverage federal funds to conserve fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. The Foundation is required by law to match each federally-appropriated dollar with a minimum of one non-federal dollar. We consistently exceed this requirement by leveraging federal funds at a 3:1 ratio while providing thought leadership and emphasizing accountability, measurable results, and sustainable conservation outcomes. Funds appropriated by this Subcommittee are fully dedicated to project grants and do not cover any overhead expenses of the Foundation.

As of FY 2008, the Foundation has awarded over 10,000 grants to more than 3,500 national and community-based organizations through successful partnerships with NRCS and other federal agencies, including the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Department of Interior agencies, Environmental Protection Agency, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. **This effective model brings together multiple federal agencies with state and local government and private organizations to implement conservation strategies on private lands that directly benefit diverse habitats and a wide range of fish and wildlife species.**

During FY 2000-2006, the Foundation received an average appropriation of \$3 million annually to further the mission of NRCS through a matching grant program focused on private lands conservation. Together, NRCS and the Foundation have supported nearly 500 grants to conservation districts, universities, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and non-profit organizations who partner with farmers, ranchers, and foresters to support conservation efforts on private land. Through these efforts, the Foundation leveraged \$21 million in NRCS funds into more than \$85 million to conserve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce agricultural runoff, and remove invasive species in 50 states, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. **We ask that the Subcommittee restore the NRCS appropriation for the Foundation in FY 2010.**

This Subcommittee's support is critical to our success in attracting additional funding for agricultural conservation through corporate and foundation contributions, legal settlements, and

direct gifts. As a neutral convener, the Foundation is in a unique position to work with the federal agencies, state and local government, corporations, foundations, conservation organizations and others to build strategic partnerships to address the most significant threats to fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. **Currently, the Foundation has active partnerships with more than 30 corporations and foundations and 17 federal agencies.** The Foundation is successfully building bridges between the government and private sector to benefit NRCS's mission. Examples of those benefiting agricultural conservation include:

- **The Kellogg Foundation** contributed \$750,000 of NRCS-matching funds through to support innovative and sustainable conservation activities on agricultural lands.
- **ArcelorMittal**, the world's largest steel company, established a \$2.5 million partnership with the Foundation in 2008 to restore wildlife habitat in the Great Lakes.
- Strong partnerships with **Anheuser-Busch, Southern Company, and the McKnight Foundation**, all of whom have a special interest in conserving habitat on private agricultural lands. New opportunities in 2009 for agriculture-focused partnerships include **Syngenta** and **Perdue**.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Conservation Initiatives**

It is widely known that climate change will endanger some wildlife populations and ecosystems more than others. In FY 2008, the Foundation initiated grant-making through new keystone initiatives, which focus on select species of birds, fish and sensitive habitats. With support from the Subcommittee in FY 2010, we will accelerate implementation of these strategic initiatives, many of which seek to address the affects of climate change through wildlife and natural resource adaptation. To ensure success in these investments, we are incorporating monitoring and evaluation into the entire lifecycle of our strategic initiatives in order to measure progress, promote adaptive management, demonstrate results, and continuously learn from our grant-making. With our partners, the Foundation has identified several species and ecosystems in need of immediate conservation action, a few of which are described below.

**Southeastern Grasslands** – Loss of native grasslands in the Southeast has dramatically reduced populations of grassland birds, such as the Northern Bobwhite and Loggerhead Shrike. Despite intensive efforts to improve habitat for these species, efforts have been disjointed and ineffective at recovering species. The Foundation will work with NRCS, other federal agencies, and corporate partners to facilitate ongoing and new efforts toward effective and results-oriented grassland bird conservation. FY 2010 funding would support grassland restoration and management on private agricultural lands in the Southeast and, in turn, positively benefit wildlife conservation and associated recreation, erosion control and water quality.

**Northeastern Early Successional Forests** – Every state fish and wildlife agency in the Northeast has identified habitats that depend on disturbance as a top priority. FY 2010 funds will strengthen the Foundation's partnership with NRCS to work with farmers, family foresters and other landowners to create incentives to manage working lands that can support healthy wetland

and forest wildlife. This includes controlling invasive species, using grazing as a win-win management tool, and other proactive efforts to keep declining species off the endangered species list.

**The Green River Basin of Wyoming** – Sublette County and other areas in the southwest corner of the state - are a major area for U.S. natural gas production and provide some of the highest quality sagebrush, riparian habitats and forest for wildlife in the west. The area also supports one of the strongest sage grouse populations, as well as mule deer, pronghorn and elk populations. Energy development impacts on wildlife movement and habitat are being addressed by energy companies, BLM and other government agencies. Our goal is to work with public and private partners to accelerate these efforts through several key strategies which include modifying fences and other barriers that obstruct wildlife movement, reducing road mortality along important migratory pathways, and protecting key parcels of private rangeland from development and subdivision with conservation easements.

**Sierra Nevada Alpine Wetlands** – We recognize that climate change will greatly exacerbate two existing water supply problems which impact wildlife and the public – too little water and the seasonality of freshwater supplies. The Foundation is working proactively with federal, state and local partners to expand voluntary water transaction programs for private landowners and launching new initiatives to increase natural water storage. These efforts will benefit a diversity of wildlife species while improving water flows year-round for human use. For example, Sierra Nevada alpine wetlands, or ‘wet meadows’, are hotspots within the Sierra Nevada ecosystem for wildlife diversity. Federal agencies manage about 40 percent of the area of these mountain ranges, but wet meadow habitat along valley bottoms is primarily private land. The Foundation will invest in partnerships that provide incentives to private landowners to conserve springs and wet meadows and provide artificial water sources to protect stream habitats.

**Klamath Basin** – The Foundation will be focusing on spring systems in the Klamath either by acquisition, easement, or voluntarily modifying agricultural practices as it is the soundest strategy for recovery of both endangered Suckers and Coho salmon. This strategy will provide these species and other fishes the ability to withstand climate change (resilience) much longer into this century. Similarly, an investment strategy of protecting and restoring spring systems in the **Shenandoah River Basin** will allow for the return of Eastern Brook Trout and 18-24 additional native species. In the **Upper Colorado River Basin**, locating areas at the warmwater-coldwater interface which contain Colorado Cutthroat trout and native suckers and chubs is providing the framework to sustain these fishes into the next century, on both public and private lands.

Restored funding through NRCS in FY 2010 will also support the Foundation’s ongoing conservation grant programs including **the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Fund, and Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund**. These grant programs, which effectively leverage funds from multiple federal agencies and corporate partners, continued positive results in 2009 with priority project requests far exceeding available funds.

**Efficiency, Performance Measures and Accountability**

As you know, the Foundation has taken important strides to strengthen our performance measures and accountability. For example, the Foundation is working with scientists and other experts to develop species-specific metrics for each of our keystone initiatives that we will use to measure our progress in achieving our conservation outcomes. Our grant review and contracting processes have been improved to ensure we maximize efficiency while maintaining strict financial and evaluation-based requirements. We have enhanced our website with interactive tools such as webinars and a grants library to enhance the transparency of our grant-making, and instituted a new paperless application and grant administration system. In 2009, we will continue our efforts improve communication between and among our stakeholders and streamlining of our grant-making process.

The Foundation's grant-making involves a thorough internal and external review process. Peer reviews involve federal and state agencies, affected industry, non-profit organizations, and academics. Grants are also reviewed by the Foundation's issue experts, as well as evaluation staff, before being recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. In addition, according to our Congressional Charter, the Foundation provides a 30-day notification to the Members of Congress for the congressional district and state in which a grant will be funded, prior to making a funding decision.

Once again, Madam Chairman, we greatly appreciate your continued support and hope the Subcommittee will approve funding for the Foundation in FY 2010.



April 22, 2009

**RE: Testimony for Self Help Housing Budget Allocation for FY 2010**

My name is Earl Pfeiffer, Executive Director of Florida Home Partnership, Inc., a non-profit housing provider, administering the USDA self help housing program in rural areas of Hillsborough County and Pasco County in Florida. I am writing to support the National Rural Housing Coalition's recommendation of \$2,000,000,000 in funding for section 502 direct mortgage dollars and \$65,000,000 in section 523 funds for FY 2010.

Florida Home Partnership has constructed in excess of 400 self help housing units utilizing the USDA mutual self help housing program. The demand for self help housing has grown since our first group was started in 1996. The rural areas of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties are underserved by affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for rural residents.

In the past twelve months, Florida Home Partnership (FHP) has received in excess of 1500 inquiries about the USDA self help program. In FY07, FHP constructed 84 self help homes, and 63 additional units in FY08. We anticipate we will have 60 self help closings in FY09.

We currently have 39 USDA self help homes under construction, with an additional 40+ clients waiting to be approved for self help housing. We have in our possession approximately 259 building lots between both counties. It is imperative allocations for 523 and 502 funds be increased so that we can meet our market driven demand.

Our ability to deliver self help housing to rural low-income Floridians is limited only by the amount of mortgage and TA dollars available. Meeting the funding suggestions above could likely allow FHP additional funding capacity to expand the self help program to additional rural communities in Polk, Manatee, Hardee, and De Soto Counties, among other communities, that have requested our service.

Additionally, it would be most helpful if local RD staffing could be increased. As it is, our local RD office has been closed and transferred to a regional office. Their backlog of guaranteed loans makes it hard to process self help loans.

Florida Home Partnership, Inc.  
 201 14th Avenue S.E., Suite H-PO, Box 750 - Suwan, Florida 33571-4819-692-6600  
 Fax: (813) 717-7881 - info@fhp.org - www.Floridians.org - Home No. C/C, 018274



Florida Home Partnership is a thriving example of a community based (CHDO) non-profit agency that serves rural America. Our staff is comprised of 16 employees, 9 of which have graduated from the USDA self help housing program.

FHP works very hard to leverage USDA mortgage and technical assistance dollars from the counties we serve. Additionally, we leverage 502 funds with FHLB dollars, and significant subsidies from the State of Florida.

I am proud to be the Executive Director of an agency serving the United States Department of Agriculture along with our rural communities. The self help program is a great program.

Thank you for accepting this testimony.



Earl Allen Pfeiffer  
Executive Director

XC: National Rural Housing Coalition: Bob Rapoza  
Moises Loza, Housing Assistance Council



**FLORIDA NON-PROFIT HOUSING, INC.**

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April 24, 2009

Selvin McGahee, Executive Director  
Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug  
Administration and Related Agencies  
Attention: Public Witness Testimony for the Record  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6016

RE: FY '10 Appropriations

Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc. (FNPH) provides training and technical/management assistance to rural affordable housing development organizations throughout the Southern United States and Puerto Rico. For more than 30 years we have assisted organizations in the delivery of safe, sanitary, decent affordable housing to low and very-low income individuals. We strongly support the federal rural housing programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Housing Service (USDA/RHS). We support increasing rural housing production to 35,000 units per year through loans, grants and related services for rental, homeownership and repair programs at an estimated cost of \$2,645,000,000.

Even before the financial crisis, it was hard to argue that rural America was not already in economic distress. Rural communities have higher poverty and unemployment rates than other metropolitan areas and the rural communities have higher incidents of substandard housing and rent overburden. Virtually every community in the country with inadequate drinking water has a population of 3300 or less.

Poverty rates are higher in rural America than they are in the cities. Only one in 20 urban counties has a poverty rate above 20 percent. For remote rural counties, the ratio is one in five. The counties that have been poor over a period of decades are overwhelmingly rural. There are approximately 250 consistently poor counties in the United States; 244 of those are rural.

Over the past year and a half the mortgage crisis is one of the issues that we have seen again and again in the news headlines. While the media has concentrated their stories and reports in major metropolitan areas, rural America has also been hard hit. Approximately 10 percent of all non-metropolitan mortgages, twice the proportion of metropolitan loans, have an interest rate of 10 percent or more. According to the Federal Reserve loan performance data 473 out of the 588

micropolitan areas have delinquency rates of 15%; 202 of them have foreclosure rates of 8% or higher; 135 of them have subprime rates of at least 35%; and there is a total of 60,497 delinquent loans.

For many small, rural communities federal rural housing programs are one of the few sources of affordable mortgage credit. The 35,000 unit level we support is a substantial increase over the last 10 years and more than the level established in the economic recovery act. Because the predominant form of housing in rural America is home ownership we recommend that the appropriations bill finance some 20,000 units of direct home ownership loans. Because of the high incidence of substandard housing we recommend an increasing to 10,000 units of rural home repair and green renovation. Finally because of the importance of protecting the federal investment in affordable housing and increasing the supply of rental housing, \$350 million to construct, repair and preserve affordable rental housing. This investment will create or retain 30,000 jobs in our small towns and farming communities.

In detail, our recommendations include:

- \$2 billion for direct home ownership loans;
- \$250 million in loan authority for rental housing new construction and renovation;
- \$100 million in budget authority for multi family restructuring;
- \$15 million for rental assistance for new construction;
- \$100 million for loans and grants under section 504 and 533 for green renovations;
- \$100 million for farm labor housing equally divided between loans and grants;
- \$65 million for support of self help housing;
- \$15 million for rural capacity building.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide you with my recommendations for what I feel would help to address some of the vital needs in rural communities throughout the country. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further service.

Sincerely,



Selvin McGahee  
Executive Director

SM/ksk





**Housing Assistance Council**  
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www.ruralhome.org

**Statement for the Record of  
Moises Loza, Executive Director,  
Housing Assistance Council**  
before the Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
May 1, 2009

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) rural development budget for fiscal year 2010. HAC and others in the rural housing world greatly appreciate Chairwoman DeLauro's and the Subcommittee's support for USDA rural housing programs in recent appropriations bills.

HAC was established 38 years ago to provide financing, information, and technical services to nonprofit, for-profit, public, and other providers of rural housing. Created to meet the housing needs of the poorest of the poor in the most rural places, HAC fulfills its mission by working in close partnership with local organizations in rural communities throughout the nation. HAC has worked in rural communities in all states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These relationships provide us with first-hand knowledge of the issues impacting rural areas and help us develop the strategies we believe have led to sustainable growth in many communities across the nation.

During the current recession it is particularly important to support the rural housing programs administered by USDA's Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities Programs office (RD). Foreclosures and mortgage markets have become the major housing-related news topics, but the housing needs of low-income people in both urban and rural places predated the housing crash and will undoubtedly outlast it. RD's programs have a long history of success in meeting these needs, and must be fully funded to help rural America not only recover from the recession, but also move forward.

One of every five homes in this country is located in a nonmetropolitan area. More than one quarter of rural households pay more than the federal standard of 30 percent of their monthly income for housing. Most of these cost-burdened rural households have low incomes. At the same time, 1.7 million rural homes (6.3 percent) are either moderately or severely substandard. Minorities in rural areas are among the poorest and worst housed groups in the entire nation, with much higher levels of inadequate housing conditions. Complicating efforts to improve rural housing, many rural places lack strong, experienced nonprofit housing organizations. Housing needs are particularly severe for certain rural places and populations including Native Americans, the Mississippi Delta, Appalachia, the colonias along the U.S.-Mexico border, and farmworkers.

<b>Building Rural Communities</b>	<b>Southeast Office</b>	<b>Southwest Office</b>	<b>Midwest Office</b>
	600 W. Peachtree St., N.W.	3939 San Pedro, N.E.	10100 N.W. Ambassador Drive
	Suite 1500	Suite C-7	Suite 310
	Atlanta, GA 30308	Albuquerque, NM 87110	Kansas City, MO 64153
Tel.: 404-892-4824	Tel.: 505-883-1003	Tel.: 816-880-0400	
Fax: 404-892-1204	Fax: 505-883-1005	Fax: 816-880-0500	
southeast@ruralhome.org	southwest@ruralhome.org	midwest@ruralhome.org	

HAC is an equal opportunity lender.

Despite the needs, funding for USDA rural housing programs has decreased significantly in recent years. Now, the mortgage crisis threatens to erase gains in homeownership and asset-building, while rental units in aging buildings need to be rehabilitated and preserved as affordable housing.

HAC is grateful to Congress for including substantial funding for RD's homeownership mortgage programs, both direct and guaranteed, in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as well as for some other RD programs.

HAC's specific recommendations for FY 2010 appropriations are provided in Table 1. By funding RD housing programs at these levels, the subcommittee would:

**Support continued strong direct lending programs for single- and multifamily rural housing development.** Among RD's housing programs are direct loan programs for homeownership and for development of rental housing, and loan guarantee programs for the same two purposes. The Bush Administration's budget proposals consistently suggested defunding the direct loan programs in favor of the guarantee programs. While guarantees cost the government less than direct loans, the guarantee programs cannot replace the direct loans because they serve different populations.

In 2006 homebuyers receiving Section 502 direct loans had an average income of about \$23,000, compared to \$40,400 for homebuyers with Section 502 guaranteed loans. Similarly, the average income of tenants in developments financed with Section 515 direct loans is just under \$11,000 per year as of April 2008. No comparable figure is available for tenants in properties with private loans guaranteed under USDA's Section 538 program, but in 2005 USDA reported Section 538 tenants averaged about \$18,400 per year.

The Section 502 direct loan program is particularly important in the current economy because it makes homeownership possible for very low- and low-income rural residents who cannot qualify for private mortgages, thus ensuring that they will not turn to predatory lenders to achieve their dreams. The Section 502 and 515 direct loan programs must be kept in place with full funding, along with the Section 502 and 538 guarantee programs.

**Support provision of decent, affordable rental homes in rural places.** Funding could enable development of new affordable rental units in the many rural areas where they are needed; fully fund the programs and demonstrations at USDA and HUD that address the needs of many existing federally funded rental developments for renovation and for preservation of their owners' obligations to keep rents affordable; and provide USDA or HUD rental assistance, as needed, for tenants in USDA-financed buildings, tenants whose landlords convert properties to market rate rents, and tenants in foreclosed rental properties.

Despite a general neglect of rental housing by national housing policy through most of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, RD and Congress recognized the need to preserve affordable rental housing in rural America and developed useful demonstration programs that are now ready to be made more broadly available. Past successes also illustrate effective ways to develop new rural rentals for low-income tenants. Appropriations for 2010 should:

- **Fund the Section 515 rental program at \$250 million** to finance construction of 3,000 apartments and create 3,500 jobs. Affordable rental housing is scarce in many rural places, and new construction has dropped sharply over the last 20 years as Section 515 funds have been cut. Rural housing organizations have made good use of Low Income Housing Tax Credits, but tax credits alone cannot produce rentals affordable to the lowest income rural residents.
- **Provide USDA Section 521 Rental Assistance (RA) or HUD Section 8 vouchers to Section 515 and 514 tenants** who would otherwise pay more than 30 percent of income for rent. The average income of Section 515 tenants is just under \$11,000 (as of April 2008) and more than half of them are elderly or disabled, thus probably living on fixed incomes. Despite the Section 515 assistance to their landlords, 16 percent of Section 515 tenants pay more than 30 percent of their incomes for their homes. The cost of renewing all expiring RA contracts in FY 2010 is about \$1 billion, assuming that contracts are for only one year and no new RA units are provided – but, without RA, very low-income tenants cannot afford their rent and property owners often cannot balance their budgets, while without longer-term contracts (e.g., five years) other funding sources are reluctant to participate in projects that seem to have uncertain futures.
- **Fund the Section 514/516 farm labor housing program** for construction of needed new units. Housing problems such as substandard housing quality, crowding, and affordability issues are commonplace among migrant farmworkers who travel to follow crop seasons and labor demand, as well as those who reside in the same community year-round. RD farm labor housing funds are an important resource for developers, but funding has always been too low compared to the need. The Section 514/516 program has produced only 35,989 units since it began obligating funds in 1962. For 2010, HAC proposes funding levels of at least \$50 million for Section 514 loans and \$50 million for Section 516 grants.
- **Preserve and revitalize affordable Section 515 and 514 rural rental housing.** These properties are aging, with many badly in need of repairs and renovations. At the same time, some owners want to prepay their mortgages and leave the Section 515 program, often because they hope to convert their apartments to market-rate rentals. Federal intervention is needed. HAC recommends that Congress:
  - *Provide substantial funding for the Multi-Family Housing Revitalization (MPR) and Preservation Revolving Loan Fund (PRLF) programs.* Created a few years ago as demonstration programs, MPR and PRLF have proven to be invaluable tools in preservation efforts.
  - *Continue to set aside \$6 million in RA each year for debt forgiveness or RA payments as authorized by Section 502(c).* This set-aside gives USDA a degree of flexibility in using these funds that is not provided by Section 521 but is essential for preservation efforts.

**Continue building the capacity of rural housing organizations to meet their own communities' needs.** Mission-driven community organizations, primarily nonprofits, play an essential role in putting rural housing funds to work in rural places. To use rural housing programs effectively to improve housing and contribute to sustained economic recovery, a strong nonprofit presence is required. To support community-based nonprofit organizations, their employees, and their vital role, the Housing Assistance Council recommends an appropriation of

\$15 million in FY 2010 USDA's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), which funds intermediary organizations that build organizational capacity for local housing organizations.

HAC further encourages the Congress to:

**Increase Rural Development's housing staff resources.** In 1989, the old Farmers Home Administration had 1,904 offices, one in almost every rural county, giving the agency a unique accessibility to rural residents. That year FmHA also had more than 11,500 staffers. Beginning in the early 1990s, USDA reorganization and other recent cost-saving measures have led to consolidation of many field offices. By 2008, USDA RD had 6,100 staff handling not only housing programs, but also business and utilities. Clients are now served by regional offices covering numerous counties, loan servicing is centralized in a single national office, and the agency's clients are encouraged to communicate electronically.

These changes have not benefited low-income rural residents. Centralization works well for RD's multifamily programs, when the agency's customers are for-profit or nonprofit housing developers, and for water/ sewer programs. But rural families needing RD assistance to purchase or repair their homes should be served by people who live near them and share their culture, at least until universal access to high-speed computers is achieved, as well as universal ability to use them. In addition, local offices can better implement flexible policies to serve local conditions. Therefore servicing for the Section 502 and 504 programs should remain in local offices.

In 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided additional funding for the Section 502 direct and guaranteed loan programs, enabling USDA to address a significant backlog of applications but also significantly stretching its staff resources. HAC urges Congress to appropriate enough funds for RD staffing to ensure that enough staff are in place to handle the agency's work, as well as enough field offices to reach low-income rural residents.

**Encourage and fund green building methods.** Efficient use of energy and natural resources, healthy surroundings, and sensitivity to the environment are as important in affordable housing as in market rate buildings. Potential avenues could be to direct some weatherization funds to use with USDA programs, and allow the new green retrofit program for HUD-supported apartments to be used also with USDA units.

**Ensure adequate funding for rural residential water and sanitation services.** Hundreds of rural communities nationwide still do not have access to clean residential drinking water and safe waste disposal systems. The budget should continue to make loans and grants available, including funding for assistance to local governments, tribes, and nonprofits that lack the necessary expertise, through USDA's Rural Water and Waste Disposal program.

In the last five decades the United States has achieved remarkable success in improving access to modern water and sanitation services for its residents. Hundreds of rural communities nationwide, however, still do not have access to clean residential drinking water and safe waste disposal systems. Most of the people affected are the poorest of the poor or the elderly, usually living in rural areas with incomes below the federal poverty level.

Many small communities look to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Water and Waste Disposal program as their sole source of affordable financing for drinking water, sanitary sewage, solid waste disposal, and storm drainage facilities. The program assists rural areas and cities and towns of up to 10,000 residents that are unable to finance their needs through their own resources or with credit from commercial sources. Available financing includes both direct and guaranteed loans. Communities with low median household incomes are also eligible for grants.

To meet rural water and waste disposal needs, and to assist with economic recovery in small communities, HAC recommends that FY 2010 appropriations continue funding these programs at \$1 billion for loans (direct and guaranteed) and \$467.5 million for grants.

**Table 1:**  
**Recommended Rural Housing Program Funding Levels**

USDA Rural Development Program	HAC Recommendation for FY 2010 Approp. (dollars in millions)
<b>Loans</b>	
502 Single Family Direct	\$2,000
504 Very Low-inc. Repair	25
514 Farm Labor Hsg.	50
515 Rental Hsg. Direct	250
Rental Prsrv. Revig. Loans	*
<b>Grants and Payments</b>	
504 Very Low-inc. Repair	25
516 Farm Labor Hsg.	50
523 Self-Help TA	75
533 Hsg. Prsrv. Grants	50
521 Rental Assistance	1,107**
542 Rural Hsg. Vouchers	*
Rental Prsrv. Demo. (MPR)	100*
Rural Cmnty. Dev't Init.	15

\* HAC recommends a total of \$100 million be appropriated for USDA's Multifamily Rental Preservation Demonstration, Section 542 preservation vouchers, and the Rental Preservation Revolving Loan Fund (PRLF), to be allocated among those three programs by USDA. USDA should allocate at least \$10 million for the PRLF.

\*\* This total includes \$1.086 billion to renew all expiring Rental Assistance (RA) contracts, \$5.9 million for RA in connection with rental housing preservation, and \$15 million for new RA contracts in newly constructed properties with Section 515 or 514 loans.

# NATIONAL RURAL HOUSING COALITION

1331 G Street, N.W., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 393-5229 • fax (202) 393-3034 • [www.nrhweb.org](http://www.nrhweb.org)

## Statement

Robert A. Rapoza  
Executive Secretary  
Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations for  
Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development Programs

Even before the financial crisis, it was hard to argue that rural America was not already in economic distress. Rural communities have higher poverty and unemployment rates than other metropolitan areas and the rural communities have higher incidents of substandard housing and rent overburden. Virtually every community in the country with inadequate drinking water has a population of 3300 or less.

Poverty rates are higher in rural America than they are in the cities. Only one in 20 urban counties has a poverty rate above 20 percent. For remote rural counties, the ratio is one in five. The counties that have been poor over a period of decades are overwhelmingly rural, writes There are approximately 250 consistently poor counties in the United States; 244 of those are rural.

A disproportionate amount of the nation's substandard housing is located in rural areas. Of the approximate 106 million occupied housing units available in the United States according to the 2000 Census, 18.7 million units or 17.7% if of the occupied units are located in non-metropolitan counties. The Economic Research Service recently released updated typologies for the Nation's counties. The classification includes a new typology which identifies 15 percent of non-metropolitan counties as housing stressed. In these counties, 30 percent or more of homes are considered too costly relative to household incomes, are too crowded, or lack certain basic facilities, such as a complete kitchen or bathroom. Also according to the Economic Research Service, some 4 million rural families live in "housing poverty", a multidimensional indicator that combines measures of economic need, housing quality, and neighborhood quality. The 2000 Census revealed that 5.5 million people, one-quarter of the non-metro population, face cost overburden and 1.6 million non-metro housing units are either moderately or severely substandard.

Over the past year and a half the mortgage crisis is one of the issues that we have seen again and again in the news headlines. While the media has concentrated their stories and reports in major metropolitan areas, rural America has also been hard hit. Approximately 10 percent of all non-metropolitan mortgages, twice the proportion of metropolitan loans, have an interest rate of 10 percent or more. According to the Federal Reserve loan performance data 473 out of the 588 metropolitan areas have delinquency rates of 15%; 202 of them have foreclosure rates of 8% or

higher; 135 of them have subprime rates of at least 35%; and there is a total of 60,497 delinquent loans.

Despite the need, over the last several years appropriations for most rural housing programs have declined. Appropriations for low income home ownership have declined by almost two-thirds since 2003 and rural rental housing funding has dropped from half. While rural rental assistance has increased, that is due in large part to the decision by the Congress and Administration to shorten the term of renewals for expiring contracts to one year. The only account that continues to increase is subsidies for home ownership guarantees, which serve a much more prosperous population than direct programs.

**Rural Housing and Community Development Budget Authority  
FY03-FY09 Final**

Program	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY 08	FY 09
<i>Rural Development</i>							
Water/Sewer	723.2	605	552.1	530.1	554	539	566.8
Business	87.7	76.5	74.1	89.2	51	57	101
Community Facilities	96.8	75.9	89.1	82.6	77	69	50.1
<i>Rural Housing</i>							
Direct 502	202.3	126.1	133.1	129	113	105	75.3
Guaranteed 502	32.6	46	33.6	41	41	50	79
515	54	50.1	47.1	45	45	29	28.6
538	4.5	5.9	3.5	5	7	12	8
504	10.9	9.6	10	10	11	10	9.2
Others	1.2	.7	.7	.7	.7	1	1
Rental Assistance	726	580.5	592	653.1	616	479	902

\$ in millions

As a result of these reductions, rural housing production for low income households is only about 10,000 per year.

For these reasons, we support the federal rural housing programs administered by the Rural Housing Service (RHS) of the US Department of Agriculture. The programs provide loans, grants and related assistance that help low income families gain better housing and also create jobs. For many small, rural communities federal rural housing programs are one of the few sources of affordable mortgage credit.

We support increasing rural housing production to 35,000 units per year. This is a substantial increase over the last 10 years and more than the level established in the economic recovery act.

Because the predominant form of housing in rural America is home ownership we recommend that the appropriations bill finance some 20,000 units of direct home ownership loans. Because of the high incidence of substandard housing we recommend an increasing to 10,000 units rural home repair and green renovation. Finally because of the importance of protecting the federal investment in affordable housing and increasing the supply rental housing \$350 million to construct, repair and preserve affordable rental housing. This investment will create or retain 30,000 jobs in our small towns and farming communities

In detail, our recommendations include:

- \$2 billion for direct home ownership loans;
- \$250 million in loan authority for rental housing new construction and renovation;
- \$100 million in budget authority for multi family restructuring;
- \$15 million for rental assistance for new construction;
- \$100 million for loans and grants under section 504 and 533 for green renovations;
- \$65 million for support of self help housing;
- \$15 million for rural capacity building; and
- \$1 billion for rural water and waste disposal.

Thank you for your past support and your attention to this matter.



**Statement of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN)  
Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
on Fiscal Year 2010 Funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Programs**

**Contact:** Mary Lee Watts  
Director of Science and Public Affairs  
ASN  
(301) 634-7112  
Mwatts@nutrition.org

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and specifically, its research programs. ASN is the professional scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers, clinical nutritionists and industry to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition to promote human and animal health. Our focus ranges from the most critical details of research to very broad societal applications. **ASN respectfully requests \$1.377 billion for ARS, with \$120 million of the total allocated to the Human Nutrition Research program. We request \$300 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative in FY 2010.**

Basic and applied research on nutrition, food production, nutrient composition, food processing and nutrition monitoring is critical to American health and the U.S. economy. Awareness of the growing epidemic of obesity and the contribution of chronic illness to burgeoning health care costs has highlighted the need for improved information on dietary intake and improved strategies for dietary change. Demand for a safer and more nutritious food supply continues to increase. Preventable chronic diseases related to diet and physical activity cost the economy over \$117 billion annually, and this cost is predicted to rise to \$1.7 trillion in the next ten years. Nevertheless, funding for food and nutrition research at USDA has not increased in real dollars since 1983! This decline in our national investment in agricultural research seriously threatens our ability to sustain the vitality of food, nutrition and agricultural research programs and in turn, threatens the future of our economy and the health of our nation.

USDA historically has been identified as the lead nutrition agency and the most important federal agency influencing U.S. dietary patterns. Through the nutrition and food assistance programs, which form roughly 60 percent of its budget, USDA has a direct influence on the dietary intake (and ultimately the health) of millions of Americans. It is important to better understand the impact of these programs on the food choices, dietary intake, and nutritional status of those vulnerable populations which they serve. Research is the key to achieving this understanding, and it is the foundation upon which U.S. nutrition policy is built.

USDA is in full or in part responsible for the development and translation of federal dietary guidance, implementation of nutrition and food assistance programs and nutrition education; and, national nutrition monitoring. The USDA Human Nutrition Research programs ensure nutrition policies are evidence-based, ensure we have accurate and valid research methods and databases, and promote new understanding of nutritional needs for optimal health.

**ARS Human Nutrition Research Program**

USDA has built a program of human nutrition research, housed in six centers (HNRCs)<sup>1</sup> geographically

<sup>1</sup> Of the six HNRCs, three are fully administered by ARS and are located in Davis, CA, Beltsville, MD, and Grand

disperse across the nation and affiliated with the ARS, which links producer and consumer interests and forms the core of our knowledge about food and nutrition. These unique centers are working closely with a wide variety of stakeholders to determine just how specific foods, food components, and physical activity can act together during specific life-stages (e.g. prior to conception, in childhood, in older adult years) to promote health and prevent disease. The HNRCs are a critical link between basic food production and processing and health, including food safety issues. The center structure adds value by fully integrating a multitude of nutritional science disciplines that cross both traditional university department boundaries and the functional compartmentalization of conventional funding mechanisms.

An important basic premise of research in the HNRCs is that many chronic diseases, such as diabetes and obesity, can be prevented by lifestyle issues, the most important of which are: consuming appropriate amounts of a well-balanced, healthful diet; and regularly engaging in adequate levels of physical activity. Using state-of-the-art facilities and a concentration of critical scientific teams, the HNRCs are conducting the highest quality translational research. Also of importance are the long-term experiments involving the derivation of dietary reference intake values and nutrient requirements of individuals. Often compared to the intramural program at the National Institutes for Health, these centers tackle projects that are unlikely to be funded through other means, such as through competitive grants or by industry.

The flat-funding of ARS in FY 2009, coupled with flat-funding of the Human Nutrition Research program for over six years, seriously jeopardizes the future of the centers, their important research projects, and the critical infrastructure provided by the USDA from which the HNRCs and scientists benefit. An estimated \$10 million in additional funds is needed across the six HNRCs to ensure they can continue current research projects and to restore purchasing power lost to inflation over years of flat budgets.

Another example of the unique nutrition research at ARS is the nutrition monitoring program, "What We Eat in America" (WWEIA). This program allows us to know not only what foods Americans are eating, but also how their diets directly affect their health. Information from the survey guides policies on food safety, food labeling, food assistance, military rations, pesticide exposure and dietary guidance. In addition to having an impact on billions of dollars in federal expenditures, the survey data leverages billions of private sector dollars allocated to nutrition labeling, food product development and production. Despite this, WWEIA has been flat-funded at \$11.5 million for over 13 years. The USDA budget for WWEIA must be increased two-fold to \$23 million. Otherwise, we risk losing this national treasure if we do not restore lost funding and strengthen it for the future.

#### **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grants program**

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 the soon-to-be-established National Institute of Food and Agriculture at USDA. This unique program, the successor to USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI) and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS), takes research and innovation beyond the development phase, into implementation through contemporary education and extension programs.

AFRI now includes programs aimed to improve the nation's nutrition and health which were previously funded by other mechanisms. The nutrition- and health-related research focuses on two objectives: (1) improving human health by better understanding an individual's nutrient requirements and the nutritional value of foods; and (2) promoting research on healthier food choices and lifestyles. For example, USDA-funded projects funded by the Human Nutrition and Obesity program have led to a

Forks, ND. The other three are administered through cooperative agreements with Baylor University Medical Center in Houston, TX; Tufts University in Boston, MA; and, the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

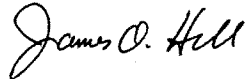
better understanding of the behavioral and environmental factors that influence obesity, and to the development and evaluation of effective interventions. Specifically, USDA competitive grants have funded nutrition education interventions focusing on the reduction of childhood obesity in low-income families.

While ASN believes the program should be funded at its full authorization level of \$700 million, we understand that in the current fiscal climate, that is unlikely. However, with the nation and world facing unprecedented health, food security and nutrition challenges, now is the time to renew investment in our nation's agricultural research enterprise. A strong commitment to AFRI of \$300 million in FY 2010 (exclusive of any funding identified for the former Section 406 programs), with a goal of \$500 million in total funding by FY 2015, will provide America's agriculture, food and nutrition scientists, land managers and farmers with the tools necessary to solve problems and keep the country competitive, while also protecting the natural resource base and environment, enhancing human nutrition and fostering vibrant rural communities.

The AFRI and the Human Nutrition Research Program under ARS are symbiotic programs that provide the infrastructure and generation of new knowledge that allow for rapid progress towards meeting national dietary needs. These programs allow USDA to make the connection between what we grow and what we eat. And through strategic nutrition monitoring, we learn more about how dietary intake affects our health.

ASN thanks your Committee for its support of the ARS and the AFRI Competitive Grants Program. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Mary Lee Watts, ASN Director of Science and Public Affairs, at (301) 634-7112 or [mwatts@nutrition.org](mailto:mwatts@nutrition.org).

Sincerely,



James O. Hill, PhD  
President, American Society for Nutrition

**Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group  
Room 1143, Energy, Coast, & Environment Building  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, La. 70803**

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May 1, 2009

Representative Rosa De Lauro  
Chair, Sub-Committee on Agricultural Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative De Lauro,

I am submitting the following testimony to the Sub-Committee regarding the proposed relocation of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Soil and Water Research Unit housed at Louisiana State University. The Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group and other supporters of this Unit and its work from both non-governmental organizations and private companies have written to you on several occasions expressing that support and explaining why the Unit's work on agricultural drainage management and best management practices aimed at reducing farm field runoff are so important.

Supporters of this Unit have resisted attempts by ARS to first close, and then relocate it over the past four years. The agency included language in President Bush's FY09 budget directing that the Unit be relocated to Houma, La. We were told subsequently by ARS that due to the lack of concurrence by Congressional Committees, all such language relating to ARS Units had been removed from the budget. We were informed this week that apparently such language did survive in the FY09 budget, and that the agency will now relocate the Unit after all.

We believe this move to be ill-advised for a number of reasons. The Unit has been housed at Louisiana State University for over 20 years, and continues to work in partnership with the LSU Agriculture Center and other partners, helping to fund graduate and post-doctorate research on joint projects. Millions of dollars of public funds have been invested in the Unit's research sites near LSU. Such sites would need to be de-commissioned at public expense, and further costs will be incurred by the need to construct both research sites and housing for research staff at the Houma location, if such work ever actually gets funded and carried out there. The Houma site is different in topography and hydrology, and is not well suited to the kind of research that the Unit at LSU has engaged in. The Houma site is also highly vulnerable to hurricanes, being seriously damaged most recently by Gustav, with millions required for repairs and renovations.

The ARS Unit at LSU has been carrying out work in the Cabin Teele Watershed in northeast Louisiana which has important applications to the open ditch drainage systems used commonly on farms in the lower Mississippi River basin and the Southeast. For this reason, that work has been included as part of nutrient reduction strategies under the national Gulf Hypoxia *Action Plan* in Louisiana.

I believe that this matter is worthy of reconsideration, especially since the decision to relocate the Unit

*Public Testimony - La Hypoxia Working Group - 2*

appears to have finally been made on the basis of language with which Congress did not intend to fully concur with.

Sincerely,

Doug Daigle  
Coordinator  
Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group  
dougdaigle@gmail.com

**Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee on Hypoxia  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Crumpler Plastic Pipe, Inc.  
C.C. Lynch & Associates, Inc  
Gulf Restoration Network  
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation**

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair, Agricultural Appropriations Sub-Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro,

We are writing to express our strong support for the continued funding and operation of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Unit located at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The work of this ARS Unit is of critical importance for research on best management practices common in the southeast and the Mississippi River Basin.

A key part of the Unit's work involves controlled drainage management and its combination with other best management practices to improve water quality, improve efficiency of water use, and maintain productivity. Of particular importance is the research sited in the Cabin Teele Watershed in northeast Louisiana, which has been selected as a focus watershed by the Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee on Hypoxia, a group formed under the national Gulf Hypoxia Task Force.

The work of the ARS Unit at LSU is also significant on a national level. They have played a key role in the formation of the federal-state Agricultural Drainage Management Task Force, and are making a significant contribution to reducing the nutrient loading that fuels the growth of a large hypoxic (low oxygen) zone in the Gulf of Mexico each year. The Unit's recent addition of work focused on biofuel crop production can complement these efforts, since water quality can also be addressed through practices specific to those crops.

The historical expertise of this ARS Unit is a critical component of this research work, which also plays an important part in Louisiana's state hypoxia strategy. The Unit's budget, however, has not had a significant increase during the past decade, and even a modest increase in funding will be necessary to ensure that their work can continue.

Sincerely,

Doug Daigle  
Coordinator  
Lower Mississippi River  
Sub-basin Committee on Hypoxia

Steven Peyronin  
Director  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

**Letter in support of ARS Unit at LSU – 2**

Houston Crumpler  
Crumpler Plastic Pipe, Inc.

Malcolm Lynch  
C.C. Lynch & Associates

Cynthia Sarthou  
Executive Director  
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Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

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Iowa Environmental Council

Stacy James  
Director  
Prairie Rivers Network

***Return Address:***

***Room 1143, Energy, Coast, & Environment Building  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, La. 70803***

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**Statement of Mr. Kenneth Haff  
President, American Honey Producers Association, Inc.  
for the  
House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
Agencies  
Washington, D.C.**

**2009**



Chairwoman DeLauro and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Kenneth Haff, and I currently serve as President of the American Honey Producers Association ("AHPA"). I am pleased today to submit the following statement on behalf of the AHPA, a national organization of commercial beekeepers actively engaged in honey production and crop pollination throughout the country. The purpose of this statement is to bring to your attention the continued threats faced by American beekeepers and the billions of dollars in U.S. agriculture that rely upon honeybee pollination services. With those threats in mind, we respectfully request an appropriation of at least \$20 million to combat CCD and to conduct other essential honeybee research through the ARS and other agencies at the Department of Agriculture, as provided for in the 2008 Farm Bill.

As I speak to you today, U.S. beekeepers are facing the most extraordinary of challenges. Colony Collapse Disorder ("CCD") has continued to ravage bee colonies across the United States, moving from one hive to another in unpredictable patterns. The result has been the death of up to 90% of the bee colonies in affected apiaries. In early 2007, the National Research Council at the National Academy of Sciences characterized the beekeeping industry as being in "crisis mode" – a point echoed and re-emphasized in last year's USDA action plan regarding honeybee threats. Hundreds of news articles and many in-depth media reports have continued to chronicle the looming disaster facing American beekeepers and the producers of over 90 fruit, vegetable and fiber crops that rely on honeybee pollination. However, despite extensive and coordinated work by experts from government, academia and the private sector, the definitive causes of and solutions for CCD have yet to be identified.

The emergence of CCD shines a bright light on the inadequacies of current honeybee research, particularly on the lack of capacity to address new challenges and to take long-term steps to assure honeybee health. In saying this, we do not mean to diminish the vital, ongoing work of ARS and other honeybee scientists. They do their job and they do it very well. In recent years, however, honeybee research has become largely confined to four ARS laboratories that provide the first line of defense against exotic parasitic mites, Africanized bees, viruses, brood diseases, pests, pathogens and other conditions. Universities and the private sector have substantially scaled back their efforts due to a lack of available funds. Moreover, ARS laboratories lack sufficient resources even for current honeybee research priorities. For example, we understand that ARS currently lacks funds even to test high priority CCD samples that ARS scientists have already collected.

In past fiscal years, this Subcommittee has supported the beekeeping industry through funding for agricultural research activities. As you know, in the FY 2003 cycle, the Subcommittee rejected a proposal that would have resulted in the elimination of three ARS laboratories that are indispensable to the survival of our industry. Again, in the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress preserved funding for the Weslaco, Texas ARS research facility despite a recommendation in President Bush's FY 2009 budget proposal to close that facility. Those were wise decisions. Without these labs, the American honeybee may not have survived the various above-mentioned threats, and the infrastructure would not exist today upon which an aggressive research campaign may continue to be built.

For FY 2009, Congress appropriated an additional \$800,000 in research funding specifically designated to combat CCD. We appreciate and support the increased funding for CCD research, and we sincerely thank this Subcommittee for its diligent attention to the crises before us. However, we believe strongly that an increase in \$800,000 does not come close to meeting the growing demands imposed by CCD and other threats to honeybee health. Instead, to meet the needs of the American beekeeper and to stave off a pending agricultural crisis for growers and consumers, we respectfully urge the Subcommittee to appropriate \$20 million in new research funds dedicated toward CCD and other honeybee health research projects. As you know, the 2008 Farm Bill included an authorization of \$100 million over five

years for such initiatives. A \$20 million appropriation in FY 2010 would reflect that authorization, and would provide government, academic and private sector researchers with the vital resources needed to combat CCD and other emerging threats and assure long-term honeybee health. Such funding would be a prudent investment in the U.S. farm infrastructure, which, along with U.S. consumers, derives tens of billions of dollars of benefit directly from honeybee pollination. Finally, in addition to the new and significant additional funding proposed for CCD research needs, we specifically suggest increased funding in the amount of at least \$250,000 for promising honeybee genome research at the ARS laboratory in Baton Rouge. Genome research is likely to be central to resolving mysterious threats such as CCD and to ensuring bee health and productivity for generations to come.

#### **I. The Importance of Honeybees to U.S. Agriculture**

Honeybees are an irreplaceable part of the U.S. agricultural infrastructure. Honeybee pollination is critical in the production of more than 90 food, fiber, and seed crops and directly results in more than \$15 billion in U.S. farm output. The role of pollination is also vital to the health of all Americans given the dietary importance of fruit, vegetables and nuts, most of which are dependent on pollination. Honeybees are necessary for the production of such diverse crops as almonds, apples, oranges, melons, blueberries, broccoli, tangerines, cranberries, strawberries, vegetables, alfalfa, soybeans, sunflower, and cotton, among others. In fact, honeybees pollinate about one-third of the human diet.

The importance of this pollination to contemporary agriculture cannot be understated. In fact, the value of such pollination is vastly greater than the total value of honey and wax produced by honeybees. More than 140 billion honeybees, representing 2 million colonies, are transported by U.S. beekeepers across the country every year to pollinate crops.

The importance of honeybees—and the U.S. honey industry which supplies the honeybees for pollination—is illustrated by the pollination of California's almond crop. California grows 100 percent of the nation's almond crop and supplies 80 percent of the world's almonds. Honeybees are transported from all over the nation to pollinate California almonds, which are the largest single crop requiring honeybee pollination. More than one million honeybee hives are needed to pollinate the 600,000 acres of almond groves that line California's Central Valley. Thus, nearly half of the managed honey-producing colonies in the U.S. are involved in pollinating California almonds in February and March.

Many other U.S. agriculture producers require extensive honeybee pollination for their crops, including blueberry, avocado, and cotton growers. Cattle and farm-raised catfish industries also benefit from honeybee pollination, as pollination is important for growing alfalfa, which is fodder for cattle and farm-raised fish. As *OnEarth* magazine has noted, the fate of California's almond crop rests "on the slender back of the embattled honeybee."

#### **II. Threats to U.S. Honeybees**

Since 1984, the survival of the honeybee has been threatened by continuing infestations of mites, pests and other conditions for which appropriate controls must continually be developed by scientists at the four ARS laboratories and other highly qualified research institutions. These longstanding and worsening infestations have caused great strain on the American honeybee to the point where some U.S. honey producers have felt the need—for the first time in over eighty years—to import bees from New Zealand and Australia for pollination. Ironically, scientists and industry leaders have since concluded that there is likely a correlation between the introduction of foreign bees and the emergence of CCD, the newest and greatest challenge to the survival of American honeybees.

However, the specific cause of CCD and treatments for it remain elusive to both beekeepers and scientists. The research is complex, as there are a wide range of factors that – either alone or in combination – may be causes of this serious condition. Areas for research include the stress from the movement of bees to different parts of the country for extensive commercial pollination, the additional stress of pollinating crops, such as almonds, that provide little honey to the bees, and the impact of certain crop pesticides and genetic plants with altered pollination characteristics. Continuing infestations of the highly destructive Varroa mite, combined with other pests and mites, are also thought to compromise the immune systems of bees and may leave them more vulnerable to CCD. At the same time, researchers will need to focus on the many reported instances in which otherwise healthy, pest-free, stationary bee colonies are also suffering collapse or problems with reproduction.

While researchers continue in their exhaustive effort to isolate the specific causes of CCD, the AHPA strongly urges the Congress to work with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that exotic bees and the threats they pose are restricted from importation into the United States. Under current law, the Department of Agriculture has the duty to refuse a shipment's entry into the United States where the export certificate identifies a bee disease or parasite of concern to the United States or an undesirable species or subspecies of honeybee, including the Oriental honeybee or "Apis cerana" (7 CFR § 322.6(a)(2) (2004)). In the case of Australian honeybees, officials in that country have detected the presence of the Apis cerana honeybee throughout their country, a species known to harbor parasitic mites and possibly viruses that do not currently exist in the United States. At the time of discovery, officials tracked a large number of Apis cerana bees, indicating that the species had been in Australia for some time without detection. While Australian officials claim to have quarantined these bees and destroyed hives known to contain them, we have heard reports that new discoveries have taken place since such claims by Australian officials, indicating an insufficient capacity by Australian officials to accurately assess risks. AHPA believes that this development allows no other conclusion but for the Department to suspend entry of Australian honeybees.

### **III. Ongoing and New Critical Research**

AHPA, other industry officials, and leading scientists believe that an important contributing factor in the current CCD crisis is the longstanding, substantial under funding of U.S. bee research. In recent years, the Federal Government has spent very modest amounts at each ARS Honeybee Research Laboratory — for a sector that directly contributes \$15 billion per year to the U.S. farm economy. Worse still, funding amounts have not been increased to account for growing bee health concerns. USDA honeybee researchers remain under funded. As noted above, current funding shortages have caused important CCD-related bee samples to go untested. Additionally, despite their ability to provide significant and innovative new research on emerging bee threats, researchers in the academic and private sectors also lack the necessary financial resources for these vital tasks. With the emergence of CCD, there is a serious gap between the threats faced by U.S. honeybees and the capacity of our researchers to respond. Closing this gap will require significant new resources. It is estimated that each new scientist, technician and the support materials that they need will cost an additional \$500,000 per year.

To address these challenges, the AHPA respectfully requests an appropriation of at least \$20 million to combat CCD and conduct other essential honeybee research. These funds should be allocated in accordance with authorizations provided in the 2008 Farm Bill. Specifically, the funds should be divided among the following Department of Agriculture agencies and programs: (1) the four ARS Bee Research Laboratories for new personnel, facility improvement, and additional research; (2) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to conduct a nation-wide honeybee pest and pathogen surveillance program; (3)

the ARS Area Wide CCD Research Program divided evenly between the Beltsville, MD and the Tucson, Arizona research laboratories to identify causes and solutions for CCD in affected states; (4) the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service at the Department of Agriculture to fund extension and research grants to investigate the following: honey bee biology, immunology, and ecology; honey bee genomics; native bee crop pollination and habitat conservation; native bee taxonomy and ecology; pollination biology; sub-lethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on honey bees, native pollinators, and other beneficial insects; the effects of genetically-modified crops, including the interaction of genetically-modified crops with honey bees and other native pollinators; honey, bumble, and other native bee parasites and pathogens effects on other native pollinators; and (5) the additional ARS research facilities in New York, Florida, California, Utah, and Texas for research on honey and native bee physiology, insect pathology, insect chemical ecology, and honey and native bee toxicology.

Since the beekeeping industry is too small to support the cost of needed research, publicly-funded honeybee research by the four ARS bee laboratories is absolutely key to the survival of the U.S. honey and pollination industry. For example, the pinhead-sized Varroa mite is systematically destroying bee colonies and prior to CCD was considered the most serious threat to honeybees. Tracheal mites are another contributing factor to the loss of honeybees. Tracheal mites infest the breathing tubes of adult honeybees and also feed on the bees' blood. The mites essentially clog the bees' breathing tubes, blocking the flow of oxygen and eventually killing the infested bees.

The industry is also plagued by a honeybee bacterial disease that has become resistant to antibiotics designed to control it, and a honeybee fungal disease for which there is no known treatment. These pests and diseases, especially Varroa mites and the bacterium causing American foulbrood, are now resistant to chemical controls in many regions of the country. Further, we have seen that these pests are building resistance to newly-developed chemicals more quickly than in the past, thereby limiting the longevity of chemical controls.

As previously mentioned, the cause or causes of CCD are unknown. Thus, pest, viral and bacterial disease research takes on added significance. First, pest, viral and bacterial disease research may itself provide insight into the discovery of CCD's root causes. Second, whether pests and bacterial diseases are directly a factor in CCD or not, they nonetheless continue to threaten bee population health and vitality. Given CCD's particularly devastating impact on bee populations, even greater emphasis must be placed on mitigating known threats in order to achieve the overall goal of ensuring adequate honey production and pollination capacity.

In addition to pest and bacterial disease research, the sequencing of the honeybee genome in 2006 at Baylor University has opened the door to creating highly effective solutions to bee health and population problems via marker-assisted breeding. Marker-assisted breeding would permit the rapid screening of potential breeders for specific DNA sequences that underlie specific desirable honeybee traits. The sequenced honeybee genome is the necessary key that will allow scientists to discover the important DNA sequences. Additional funding for the ARS research laboratory at Baton Rouge will assure that this critically important work goes forward.

Because of the sequenced honeybee genome, it is now possible to apply molecular biological studies to the development of marker-assisted breeding of honeybees. Marker-facilitated selection offers the first real opportunity to transform the beekeeping industry from one that has been dependent upon a growing number of expensive pesticides and antibiotics into an industry that is free of chemical inputs and that is economically viable in today's competitive global marketplace. Additionally, this new sequencing capacity may prove central to identifying both the causes of and solutions to CCD. New pathogens have

recently been identified in the United States that are thought to be associated with CCD. Genetic research can be utilized to determine whether a comparative susceptibility to such pathogens exists among various bee populations, and if so, can serve to facilitate breeding with enhanced resistance.

The four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories work together to provide research solutions to problems facing businesses dependent on the health and vitality of honeybees. The key findings of these laboratories are used by honey producers to protect their producing colonies and by farmers and agribusinesses to ensure the efficient pollination of crops. Each of the four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories (which are different in function from the ARS Wild Bee Research Laboratory at Logan, Utah) focuses on different problems facing the U.S. honey industry and undertakes research that is vital to sustaining honey production and assuring essential pollination services in this country. Furthermore, each of the four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories has unique strengths and each is situated and equipped to support independent research programs which would be difficult, and in many cases impossible, to conduct elsewhere. Given the multi-factor research capacity needed to address the scourge of CCD, it is important that each research laboratory is permitted to continue and expand upon its unique strengths.

And while to date the four ARS Research Laboratories have been the backbone of American Honeybee research, we do not believe that those four facilities alone--even when fully funded--will have the capacity to meet today's research needs. This is why last year, after analyzing the new and serious threats to U.S. honeybees, Congress, representatives of the farm sector and leading researchers developed the research priorities that were incorporated into both the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill and in separate House and Senate pollination legislation. In addition to increased resources for ARS research, these experts pressed for new funding, through CSREES, for government, academic and private sector research. They also urged new bee surveillance programs through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to address the alarming lack of accurate information about the condition of U.S. bee colonies.

One particularly effective way of adding needed capacity and innovative expertise in the effort to ensure honeybee health would be to reinvigorate private sector and university bee research initiatives. For many years, these sectors played a vital role in honeybee research, and many leading universities have significant bee research capabilities. In recent years, non-federal agency research has substantially declined due to a lack of support for such initiatives. Funding the 2008 Farm Bill authorization of \$10.26 million for the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (CSREES) would go a long way toward achieving this goal.

CSREES is tasked with advancing knowledge for agriculture by supporting research, education, and extension programs. Funds may be channeled through the Department to researchers at land-grant institutions, other institutions of higher learning, federal agencies, or the private sector. The requested funding for CSREES would provide important flexibility in allocating badly needed federal dollars among government, private sector and university researchers. The recipients would provide more widespread research on honeybee biology, immunology, ecology, and genomics, pollination biology, and investigations into the effects on honeybees of potentially harmful chemicals, pests, other outside influences, and genetically modified crops. The result of such funds would be to ensure flexible financing with a comprehensive plan for battling CCD, pests, and other ongoing and future honeybee threats.

Additionally, the same coalition of experts identified a need for a honeybee pest and pathogen surveillance program. Although significant data exists on American honey production, comparably less and lower quality data exists on beekeepers and bees. Providing \$2.31 million under the 2008 Farm Bill authorizations to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the Department of Agriculture would allow the Department to utilize such data to better respond to pest and disease outbreaks, and to compile

data that may better enable prediction of new threats. Given the roughly \$15 billion added to the U.S. farm economy each year by honeybees, this is certainly a worthwhile investment in the honeybee and pollinator industry.

#### **IV. Industry Workforce Vulnerabilities**

Beekeeping is a highly skilled trade that requires extensive training before workers are able to handle, monitor, and treat bees. For nearly ten years, American beekeepers have relied heavily on Nicaraguan workers hired through the H-2A visa program to staff complex honey production and pollination operations.

Commercial beekeeping has become increasingly challenging in recent years with the emergence of new diseases and pests that threaten bee health, including American foul brood, tracheal and varroa mites, chalkbrood, and most recently, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Nicaraguan H-2A beneficiaries are trained to identify these threats and to treat the bees skillfully and appropriately. Additionally, commercial beekeepers place hives on farms and ranches in hundreds of locations throughout multiple towns and counties, often in hard-to-find back road areas. Training new workers to find these hives and to comply with the requirements of landowners can alone take months. Finally, Nicaraguan workers are trained on a wide variety of equipment necessary to the industry, including honey extractors, forklifts, and large trucks used to haul equipment and bees to and from warehouses and apiaries.

Unfortunately, on December 18, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security published a final rule that changed existing law so that H-2A visa "petitions may only be approved for nationals of countries that the Secretary of Homeland Security has designated as participating countries...." The list, published without advance warning names 28 "participating countries", including Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Absent from the list is Nicaragua. And although the rule provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with discretionary authority to approve nationals from non-participating countries if it is "in the U.S. interest", this discretion has yet to be exercised with respect to beekeeper petitions. Without sufficient guidance on the "U.S. Interest" test, the effect will be to ensure that no Nicaraguan worker petitions are approved in 2009, forcing some beekeepers to close down operations.

The AHPA does not wish to question broader national security or immigration policy rationales for restricting the participating country list. However, in this instance, Nicaraguan workers have provided an invaluable service to America's honey production and pollination industries for nearly ten years. In all cases, the workers have returned to their home country at the end of the pollination season and the beekeepers who employ them have taken great strides to ensure that they comply with immigration and labor laws in petitioning the government for H-2A visas. Refusing approval this year will seriously limit America's pollination capacity, directly threatening \$15 billion in U.S. agricultural interests.

#### **V. Conclusion**

In conclusion, we wish to thank you again for your past support of honeybee research and for your understanding of the critical importance of these ARS laboratories. By way of summary, in FY 2010, the American Honey Producers Association strongly encourages at least \$20 million in new funding for CCD and other honeybee research spread among the four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories, other ARS research facilities across the country, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service at the Department of Agriculture, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. AHPA also opposes importation of Australian honeybees and unnecessary denial of H-2A workers from Nicaragua. Only through critical research can we have a viable U.S. beekeeping industry and continue to provide stable and

affordable supplies of bee-pollinated crops, which make up fully one-third of the U.S. diet. I would be pleased to provide answers to any questions that you or your colleagues may have.

For Further Information on this Group Statement, Contact:  
Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director, Pollinator Partnership  
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May 1, 2009

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: Request for \$20 Million in FY10 Allocation to USDA for Pollinator Research

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The undersigned urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to allocate \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the new pollinator research provision authorized in the 2008 farm bill.

Native and managed pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Today, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a host of other pests and pathogens, climate change, habitat loss, pesticide misuse, and other threats to the health and population of pollinators in North America could jeopardize the integrity of our food supply and healthy wildlife ecosystems.

Honey bees and other pollinators make possible over \$15 billion in agricultural products in the U.S., and as much as \$250 billion worldwide.

Investments in honey bee and pollinator research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been stagnant for years and continue to fall far short of identified needs. The requested funding will underwrite critical unmet honey bee and pollinator research priorities that can lead to scientific outcomes urgently needed to address pressing health challenges plaguing honey bees and threatening the economic viability of beekeepers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ORGANIZATIONS:

American Beekeeping Federation, Atlanta, GA  
BeeCeuticals Organics, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Beeologics, Inc. Delivering RNAi Solutions for Bee Health, Miami, FL  
Bhusal Agro Farm, Chitwan, Nepal



Carmean Pest Management, Fresno, CA  
 Defenders of Wildlife, Washington D.C.  
 Entomological Foundation, Lanham, MD  
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 Häagen-Dazs, Oakland, CA  
 Habitat Gardening, Syracuse, NY  
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 Sandra Gidak Tucker, Casa Grand, AZ  
 Virginia Tyack, Richmond VA  
 Hans van den Broek, Velp, Netherlands  
 Wendy Velman, Idaho Falls, ID  
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 Tina Williams, Atlanta, GA  
 Thomas Wilson, Baltimore City, MD  
 Linda Zielinski, Philomath, OR

CC: The Honorable David Obey  
 The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
 The Honorable Collin Peterson  
 The Honorable Frank Lucas  
 The Honorable Dennis Cardoza  
 The Honorable Alcee Hastings, Jr.  
 The Honorable Earl Blumenauer

The Honorable Tom Vilsack

May 1, 2009

**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: Request for \$20 Million in FY10 Allocation to USDA for Pollinator Research**

**Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston,**

**The undersigned urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to allocate \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the new pollinator research provision authorized in the 2008 farm bill.**

**Native and managed pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Today, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a host of other pests and pathogens, climate change, habitat loss, pesticide misuse, and other threats to the health and population of pollinators in North America could jeopardize the integrity of our food supply and healthy wildlife ecosystems.**

**Honey bees and other pollinators make possible over \$15 billion in agricultural products in the U.S., and as much as \$250 billion worldwide.**

**Investments in honey bee and pollinator research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been stagnant for years and continue to fall far short of identified needs. The requested funding will underwrite critical unmet honey bee and pollinator research priorities that can lead to scientific outcomes urgently needed to address pressing health challenges plaguing honey bees and threatening the economic viability of beekeepers.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Thomas Wilson  
1161 Quantril Way  
Baltimore City, MD 21205-3254**

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: Request for \$20 Million in FY10 Allocation to USDA for Pollinator Research**

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The undersigned organizations and companies urge the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee to allocate \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to begin implementing the new pollinator research provision authorized in the 2008 farm bill.

Honey bees are at serious risk. Today, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a host of other pests and pathogens, climate change, habitat loss and other threats to the health and population of honey bees and other pollinators in North America could jeopardize the integrity of our food supply and healthy wildlife ecosystems.

The requested allocation for FY10 is a wise investment, as honey bees and other pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems, as are native pollinators. Honey bees and other pollinators make possible the production of well over \$15 billion in agricultural products in the U.S., and as much as \$250 billion worldwide.

The leading recommendation in a 2006 National Academy of Sciences, NRC report, the **Status of Pollinators in North America**, is to conduct critical research. **At a June 26, 2008 oversight hearing convened by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture on the status of pollinator health including CCD, witnesses from our organizations were joined by leading researchers in identifying critical research needs that remain unfunded.**

The pollinator research provision in the Farm Act of 2008, attached as Exhibit 1, authorizes \$20 million per year in funding from FY08 through FY12. We appreciate that Congress did include \$800,000 for FY09 in the USDA, Agricultural Research Service budget targeting CCD research. However, research is needed on a broad range of threats to honey bees and other pollinators, and no appropriations were made to fund the farm bill pollinator research provision in FY08 or FY09.

Investments in honey bee and pollinator research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been stagnant for years and continue to fall far short of identified needs. The requested funding will underwrite critical unmet honey bee and pollinator research priorities that can lead

to scientific outcomes urgently needed to address pressing health challenges plaguing honey bees and threatening the economic viability of beekeepers.

We continue to neglect the health of our pollinating partners at our own peril. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

American Beekeeping Federation  
Häagen-Dazs  
Pollinator Partnership



For Further Information on this Group Statement, Contact:  
Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director, Pollinator Partnership  
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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ORGANIZATIONS:

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Beeologics, Inc. Delivering RNAi Solutions for Bee Health, Miami, FL  
Bhusal Agro Farm, Chitwan, Nepal

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 Russell Vreeland, Ph.D., Professor, West Chester University, West Chester, PA  
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Bret E. Williams Los Angeles, CA  
Tina Williams, Atlanta, GA  
Thomas Wilson, Baltimore City, MD  
Linda Zielinski, Philomath, OR

CC: The Honorable David Obey  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
The Honorable Collin Peterson  
The Honorable Frank Lucas  
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The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack

**HAWAII FISH COMPANY**  
**Ronald Weidenbach**  
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City Bank 2000 TIGR Award  
US SBA 2000 Tibbits Award  
US SBA 2001 Small Business Award  
Special Congressional Recognition 2001

March 13, 2009

Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Concerning  
**Support for the Regional Aquaculture Center Program**

To the Chair and Members of the Subcommittee:

This letter is my written testimony in strong support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Regional Aquaculture Center program, with specific reference to the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA). I strongly encourage you to continue to support CTSA and the Regional Aquaculture Center program at the appropriated level of funding of \$7.5 million, or better yet, at a long deserved increased funding level of at least \$10 million.

Today I am the largest producer of tilapia in Hawaii. My operation produces tilapia for local consumption, competing well against foreign frozen imports. Reaching this point was not easy, and my business continues to face challenges. Hard work, long hours, determination, and keeping up-to-date on research being done all over the world have kept my farm alive. Also important is the help I provide to small startup farms and the overall aquaculture industry in Hawaii, because one farm does not constitute a thriving aquaculture industry.

Essential to our survival and success has also been assistance from CTSA-supported projects, such as the project led by the former Sea Grant Extension Agent, Clyde Tamaru, Ph.D., that compared available commercial feeds for survival, growth, and cost for culturing the locally important Chinese catfish. Because the costs of feed and feeding represent the largest expenses for aquaculture farming operations in Hawaii, this information was very important to help farmers make informed decisions about feed selection based on the relative merits of the available feeds, i.e., cost vs. growth. The resulting feed choices have allowed farmers to remain competitive in these difficult economic times according to their individual company goals.

In addition, the library and publications projects have made CTSA a source of invaluable aquaculture information that is readily accessible via email, which spared me the time away from my farm and the expense of driving more than 80 miles roundtrip between my farm and the University of Hawaii library to conduct my own search for this type of information in scientific journals and workshop proceedings. CTSA is committed to partnering with other regional

**HAWAII FISH COMPANY**  
**Ronald Weidenbach**  
**Co-Owner/ Manager**

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Weialua, H.I. 96791, U.S.A.  
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City Bank 2000 TIGR Award  
US SBA 2000 Tibbits Award  
US SBA 2001 Small Business Award  
Special Congressional Recognition 2001

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organizations to develop a thriving aquaculture industry in Hawaii and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong support for this valuable and essential program.

Very truly yours,

Ronald Weidenbach,  
Co-Owner/Manager

**GRANT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

I have not been awarded any federal research grants the past three fiscal years. I was awarded a small economic development grant of \$6,000 by the Oahu Agricultural Development Program (OADP), which in turn is funded in part by the USDA. My Grant No./Grant Agreement under OADP is 2008-4.

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Ronald P. Weidenbach, P.O. Box 1039, Waialua, Hawaii 96791-1039,  
[hawaiiifish@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiifish@gmail.com), (808) 429-3147

**ACADEMIC** : 1976, M.S., School of Natural Resources & Environment/Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; 1971, B.S., School of Natural Resources & Environment, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** : 1980-Present – Co-Owner/General Manager, Hawaii Fish Company, Waialua, HI; 1992-Present – Member, Vice-Chair, Industry Advisory Council, USDA Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, Waimanalo, HI; 1997-Present – President, Hawaii Aquaculture Association, Honolulu, HI; 2000-Present, Member, Sea Grant Advisory Council, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI; 2000-Present – Member, Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center Advisory Board, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, HI; 1993-2007 – Principal Investigator, five USDA Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase I and Phase II Grants, Waialua, HI; 1996-2000 – Member, Governors' Hawaii Aquaculture Advisory Council, Honolulu, HI; 1987-1991 – Fisheries/Aquaculture Consultant, East-West Center, Environment and Policy Institute, Honolulu, HI; 1982-1984 – Consultant, Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program, Honolulu, HI; 1982-1984 – Consultant, Aquatic Farms, Ltd., NSF/SBIR Phase I and Phase II grants, Kaneohe, HI; 1980-1983 – Research Fellow, East West Center Environment and Policy Institute, Honolulu, HI; 1978-1980 - Night Manager/Project Leader for Research & Development/International Consultant, Aquatic Farms, Ltd., Kaneohe, HI; 1977-1978 Research Intern, East West Center, Resource Systems Institute and Food Institute, Honolulu, HI; 1974-1976 – University of Michigan, Mekong Basinwide Fishery Survey, Saigon, Vietnam, Bangkok, Thailand, Ann Arbor, MI.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS** : Life Member, World Aquaculture Society, American Fisheries Society; Honorary Life Member, U.S. Aquaculture Association; Member, Hawaii Aquaculture Association, National Aquaculture Association, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, American Farm Bureau Federation.

**AWARDS** : 2001 – Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, Washington D.C.; 2001 – U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Award, Honolulu, HI; 2000 – U.S. Small Business Administration's, Tibbetts Award, Washington D.C.; 2000 - City Bank's, Targeted Industry Growth Report (TIGR) Award, Aquaculture Industry, Honolulu.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS** :

Tamaru, C.S., Ako, H., Sato, V.T., and Weidenbach, R.P. 2003. Advances in the culture of rotifers for use in rearing marine ornamental fish. Pages 265-276 *In* J.C. Cato and C.L. Brown, editors. Marine Ornamental Species, Collection, Culture & Conservation. Iowa State Press, Ames, Iowa.



RPW CV  
p.2

- Szyper, J.P., C.S. Tamaru, R.D. Howerton, K.D. Hopkins, A.W. Fast, and R.P. Weidenbach. 2001. Maturation, hatchery and nursery techniques for Chinese catfish, *Clarias fuscus*, in Hawaii, Hawaii Aquaculture Extension Bulletin, Summer 2001, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, Honolulu, HI. 7 pp.
- Weidenbach, R.P. 1998. Aquaculture in Hawaii: History, Attributes, Constraints, Growth, Status, and Opportunities. In The 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Area Seminar in Hawaii, U.S.A. ACT Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.
- Montgomery, D., R.P. Weidenbach, E.P. Weidenbach, B.R. LeaMaster, C.S. Tamaru, and C. Carlstrom-Trick. 1998. The Use of Ultrasound Technology to Determine Gender of Snakehead Fish (*Channa striatus*). Makai, September, 1998. University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, Honolulu, HI, pp. 2-3.
- Qin, J., A.W. Fast, D. DeAnda and R.P. Weidenbach. 1997. Growth and survival of larval snakehead (*Channa striatus*) fed different diets. Aquaculture 148:105-113.
- Weidenbach, R.P. 1995. Freshwater Pond Life: A Guide to the Animals and Plants of Hawaii's Freshwater Aquaculture Ponds. Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program, Honolulu.
- Weidenbach, R.P. and J.E. Bardach. 1992. Fisheries and aquaculture. In J.P. Morgan and M.J. Valencia, editors. Atlas for Marine Policy in East Asian Seas. University of California Press, Davis.

Hawaiian Sealife Inc.  
Richard Xie  
Owner and President  
1318A Hart Street  
Honolulu HI 96817

March 20, 2009

Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Concerning  
**Support for the Regional Aquaculture Center Program**

To the Chair and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my written testimony in support of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) and the Regional Aquaculture Center program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Education, Research, and Extension Service. I am writing to you to strongly request that you support the Regional Aquaculture Center program at the appropriated level of funding of \$7.5 million.

As the owner and president of Hawaiian Sealife, Inc., an ornamental fish business, I would like to voice my appreciation of the research on captive breeding of the yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), funded by CTSA at Oceanic Institute. Yellow tang are the most economically important ornamental fish among Hawaii's most valuable nearshore fishery resources. As a result, the practice of collecting this species from the wild increases the pressure on existing populations. The research being conducted under the yellow tang project will give Hawaii's marine ornamental trade information about another, more sustainable, method of producing this fish, allowing Hawaii to become a net exporter of yellow tang not only collected from the wild but also reared and cultured under controlled conditions.

After the project successfully closes the reproductive cycle for the yellow tang, there will be repercussions that go well beyond the local marine ornamental industry. Specifically, many species of both ornamental and food fish have larvae that are deemed impossible to rear because there is no known food item for the crucial early life stages of the tiny larval fish. The humphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*), napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), and many species of grouper are just some of the reef fish that command high prices in Asian markets, and growers of these difficult-to-raise fish would be direct beneficiaries of improved culture techniques for species of fish that produce tiny larvae. Additionally, growers of pelagic species that also produce tiny larvae would benefit from yellow tang larviculture techniques, which could very well help advance Hawaii's growing interest in culturing pelagic species in offshore cages.

**Hawaiian Sealife Inc.**

Richard Xie  
Owner and President  
1318A Hart Street  
Honolulu HI 96817

Other projects supported by CTSA in Hawaii and the American Insular Pacific have investigated the potential of other ornamental and food fish species by determining market potential, establishing optimal feeds for growth, solving disease problems, and sharing the information gained with local producers and businesses. I commend CTSA for its continued funding of

another valuable project, the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Information Service for Education (PRAISE). For many small farmers on limited budgets in rural areas, getting access to aquaculture literature is problematic. PRAISE gives us access to pertinent information from researchers around the world via the Internet, while expending only 4% of the available CTSA funds. It is difficult to imagine a more cost effective way to support commercial aquaculture development in the region.

To summarize, I believe that the work being done under the yellow tang and PRAISE projects is most valuable for its significant contributions to marine aquaculture for both ornamental and food purposes in local and international markets. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for CTSA and its key role in advancing the development of the aquaculture industry in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Xie  
Owner and President  
Hawaiian Sealife, Inc.

***Grant Disclosure Statement***

This is to certify that I have not received any U.S. federal grants during the past three fiscal years.

Richard Xie  
Owner and President  
Hawaiian Sealife, Inc.

**Richard Xie**  
 1318A Hart Street  
 Honolulu, HI 96817  
 Tel: (808) 841-8080  
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 E-mail: hawaiiansealife@aol.com

Richard Xie earned his Bachelor's degree in International Business and marketing from Zhongshan University, one of the top ten universities in China, then went on to earn his M.B.A. from Hawaii Pacific University. Richard specializes in product positioning, definition, development and expansion of markets and has 18 years of import-export and marketing experience in diverse products, such as toys, light industrial fixtures, martial arts equipment, and most notably, marine ornamental species.

From 1998 to the present, Richard has owned and operated Hawaiian Sealife, Inc., building the company up from the beginning to a successful saltwater aquarium fish wholesale business conducting business in 27 countries today. In addition to the import-export aspect, the company is expanding into multiple new business ventures, including an aquarium rental program, marine ornamental farming, importing a new line of larval fish from the Pacific using a highly sustainable capture technology, and developing a nonprofit school program in which children learn to raise fish from juveniles in a classroom setting, giving them the opportunity to learn about fish biology and ecosystems.

Due to his expertise in international trading and the marine ornamental business, Richard is often asked to speak at industry expositions, such as:

- Hong Kong Business Association and Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, "How to Sell Goods to China" seminar (2005)
- World Aquaculture Conference, "Hawaii Marine Ornamental Industry" (2006)
- Oceanic Institute Seminar Series, "Developing Marine Ornamental Aquaculture" (2007)
- Wenzhou Medical University China, "New Tech in the Ornamental Industry" (2007)
- Pacific Region Government Representatives and Administration Marine Ornamentals Trade Workshop in New Caledonia, "Post Larvae Rearing and Exporting in Hawaii." (2008)

Richard has played a key role in many research projects for various organizations and agencies, such as oceanic institute, the Taiwan national museum, and the Qingdao China Oceanic institute. Hawaiian Sealife is the first commercial company in the world to join with a French company in the European Union on a partially granted project to develop a post-larvae aquaculture farming industry in Kiribati, a developing country in the North Pacific.

Richard Xie was awarded "2009 Small Business Exporter of the Year" by the Hawaii District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration.


**CALALA'S WATER HAVEN INC.**

421 STATE RT 60  
 NEW LONDON, OH 44851  
 (419) 929-8052

April 2009

To U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

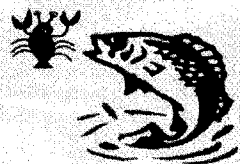
Dear Honored Members of Congress:

Once again, I have been asked to write to you in support of funding the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY2010.

In the time that has lapsed since my last letter to you on behalf of the RAC, our region has now had serious restrictions placed on us by APHIS. Because of the outbreak of VHS our industry will face new challenges. The research necessary to deal with these challenges will not come from APHIS. It will come through the efforts of a group that has demonstrated its ability to aid the aquaculture community in situations like this. The RAC program has earned the trust of the aquaculture community. And I believe that together they can come up with the solutions that are necessary to deal with these situations. But we must have the funding necessary to accomplish these goals.

Let me give you an example of a practical application that I have witnessed personally. This will give you an idea of how the funding you provide to the RAC impacts the farmers. There is successful shrimp farming in Ohio! That's right, I said SHRIMP FARMING. This is largely due to the start up of a local shrimp nursery in our state and the efforts of some 25 growers. A large part of the information to start and maintain the nursery as well as fertilization and maintenance of ponds along with feed recommendations and marketing techniques were available on the AquaNIC web site ([aquanic.org](http://aquanic.org)). This site is partially funded by the RAC monies. Without that information I am confident that we would not have been as successful.

As in years past I had the opportunity to witness, first hand, the process by which the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) funds are directed to different projects. I must tell you that I am thoroughly impressed with the way things are handled. I, along with 18 other producers, who volunteered their time (three days!) to go over prospective projects, met in Columbus, Ohio. But, the work to decide which project would be funded began a month earlier with an e-mail survey. In that way we could look over the different items and get input from our


**CALALA'S WATER HAVEN INC.**

421 STATE RT 60  
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states' producers to determine the priority of each one. In this way I believe we were able to get the greatest input on the most important needs in our industry. Coupled with the technical committees of extension and research it made for a well-rounded group. I would also venture to say that one would be hard pressed to put a monetary value on the worth of having all these folks in one place to focus on aquaculture needs. And they are there as volunteers.

It was hard to choose between the different projects, they were all important, but we had to pick only a few because of the limited funding. I do not presume to know how difficult it is for you to decide who will receive funding and who will not, or how much they will receive, all I can tell you is in my experience I see the monies spent to fund the RACs as worthwhile. When you consider the way the funds are leveraged with existing funds and personnel and the incredible amount of volunteer hours, I believe we as taxpayers are getting a lot of bang for our bucks.

So with all due respect I urge you to fully fund the RAC program for \$7.5 million. I thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this matter. I would also like to thank you all personally for the job that you are doing to manage the financial resources of this great country of ours.

Sincerely,  
 Robert Calala  
 Co-owner, Calala's Water Haven, Inc.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal Grant monies that I have received.

Fiscal Year	Agency	Program	Amount A	Project Number
FY 2007	USDA	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)	\$6,000	FNC06-638

**VITA**

Robert Calala, Co-Owner/Operator  
Calala's Water Haven, Inc.  
421 State Route 60  
New London, OH 44851

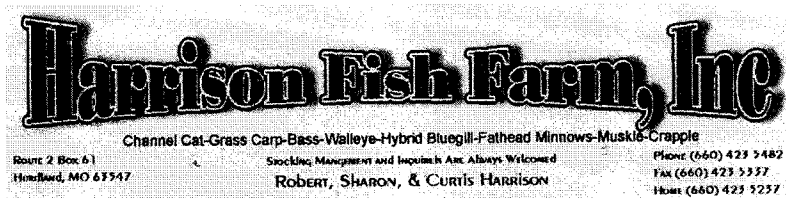
Phone: (419) 929-8052  
calala@earthlink.net

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Co-Owner/Operator, Calala's Water Haven, Inc. (1963-present); the largest producer of soft-shelled crayfish for bait in the U.S.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

President, Ohio Aquaculture Association (2002-2005) (2007-2009)  
Member, Ohio Farm Bureau  
Member, Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Centers Leadership Council  
Member, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture Health and Advisory Committee  
Member, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee  
Member, Vice President's Advisory Council, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University  
Member, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association



April 2009

Testimony Submitted to the

U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

I would like to open by thanking you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the fully authorized funding level of \$7.5 million for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program for FY2010. I come from a family farm that has been in existence for nearly 140 years. The turn of the century found our farm vacant of all "traditional livestock." Up to this point, hogs and cattle had always played a vital role in our cash flow. Aquaculture has replaced all of our other commodities and is seen as a highly viable alternative to traditional row crops.

A love of the outdoors, a retiring hobby farmer, and perhaps fortunate timing is what launched me into the aquaculture industry. In 1990, I started my business with a three acre lake and twelve cages. Today, we have over 86 lakes and are well on our way to having over 260 acres of production water. We are still growing and are excited about the aquaculture industry outlook. We have assisted over a dozen new producers during the past five years and are expecting local expansion. 2009 witnessed the opening of our new indoor recirculating aquaculture system. This single system will allow us to expand our feed training programs into several new species. With the ability to feed train species that do not normally take pellets, we are excited about our future marketing opportunities. Look around; it is quite easy to find success stories of fish farming and their related endeavors. However, our international imports of fish products far exceed our national production. It is a fact that this segment of agriculture will have a difficult time keeping up with the demand for farm-raised aquatic products. We need your continued support now more than ever.

The Internet and computer software have transformed the information highway into an effective marketing tool. We need your support to include more farmers and innovative leaders in aquaculture. We have an opportunity to help our American farmers by including them in an agricultural sector that shows great potential. Our RACs are playing an increasingly vital role in getting this information out to our state and county extension agencies. The transfer of technology is crucial for the expansion of the



aquaculture industry at the grass roots level. We need to inform the farmer as well as the public on the benefits of producing American products for American people. We also must act upon that information and now is the time.

Ever since their inception, our RACs have not received full funding at their authorized level of \$7.5 million. Please do not let pressure for spending cuts dictate against wise decision-making. We realize that the value of one dollar is not what it was when the RACs were created. They are getting the same funding now as they did at their inception. In essence, we are getting less due to inflation and rising costs; all these factors dictate that something must be done.

Please demonstrate your support of our aquaculture industry by supporting the RACs. Level funding is not in our best interests. We need your support by funding the Centers at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million. Please do not let history repeat itself again; give us, your American farmer, a true chance of making a significant transformation. It made a large impact here in Missouri. I know it can make a huge difference in the United States as well.

Thank you.

Curtis Harrison, CEO/Owner  
HARRISON FISH FARM INC.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself at this time or at any time in the past.

**VITA**

Curtis Harrison, CEO/Owner  
Harrison Fish Farm, Inc.  
Route 2 - Box 61  
Hurdland, MO 63547

Phone: (660) 423-5482  
Fax: (660) 423-5337

**EDUCATION**

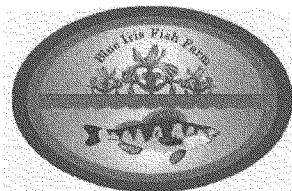
B.S. (Agricultural Engineering) University of Missouri-Columbia, 1987

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Owner/Operator, Harrison Fish Farm, Hurdland, Missouri (1990-present)

**PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS**

Executive Committee member, Industry Advisory Council, North Central Regional  
Aquaculture Center  
Member, Board of Directors, Missouri Aquaculture Association



*Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC*

Bill West, President  
N5811 Twelve Corners Road  
Black Creek, WI 54106  
920-730-0684  
[blueirisenv@gmail.com](mailto:blueirisenv@gmail.com)

March 2009

To: US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Dear Honored Members of Congress:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. Members of the aquaculture industry are very thankful for the support of Congress in the past and we thank you in advance for your continued support. We strongly urge you to fund this program at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY2010.

The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center just recently completed our annual meeting. During the annual meeting, we were thankful to be able to identify several projects which are in need of the dollars provided. This year we were only able to fund two projects of significant importance to fish farmers in NCRAC and had to turn down an additional three worthy projects. Because the real dollar value has become less with respect to what research can be accomplished, you are probably well aware that our researchers are continuously striving to provide top notch research with decreasing dollar value.

I have to commend the Members of Congress for continuing to provide funding for the RAC program. You should be aware however, that the RAC program in recent years has only been funded at 50 percent. This is an excellent use of monies that will go directly into programs which will stimulate local economies. The aquaculture industry would appreciate your consideration for increased funding for the RAC programs and again, thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BLUE IRIS FISH FARM, LLC

William M. West, President

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself at this time or at any time in the past.

N5811 Twelve Corners Road, Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106 : ph-920-730-5684; fax-920-738-7774; email-blueirisenv@gmail.com

**VITA**  
**February 2 009**

William M. West, President  
Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC  
N5811 Twelve Corners Road  
Black Creek, WI 54106

Phone: 920-730-0684  
Fax: 920-738-7774  
email: blueirisenv@gmail.com

**EDUCATION**

BS Biology University of Wisconsin Stevens Point 1973  
MS Limnology University of North Dakota, Grand Forks 1977

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Owner Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC Black Creek Wisconsin (1988-present)  
Owner Blue Iris Environmental, Inc. Black Creek Wisconsin (2000 – present)  
Board of Directors American Peat Technology, LLC, Aitkin, Minnesota (2004 – present)  
President Northeast Wisconsin Fish Co-operative, Black Creek, Wisconsin (2006 – present)  
Environmental Compliance Consultants, Inc. Green Bay, WI 1995 – 2000 Environmental Consultant  
Foth and Van Dyke and Assoc., Green Bay, WI 1988 – 1995 Environmental Consultant  
Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, WI 1987 Toxicology Studies  
Kenosha Water Utility, Kenosha, WI 1977 – 1987 Biologist and Chemist WWTP Process Control

**PROFESSIONAL AND AFFILIATIONS**

Past President Wisconsin Aquaculture Association  
Past President Federation of Environmental Technologists, Northeast Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Wastewater Operators Association – Life Member  
Wisconsin Lakes Association  
North Central Regional Aquaculture Center – Industry Advisory Committee (IAC)  
Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council (WAIAC)  
Wisconsin Industry Advisory Council for Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility

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## Aquatic Resource Management

Manning, Iowa 51455

712-653-9403

[blankman@lowatel.com.net](mailto:blankman@lowatel.com.net)

March 4, 2009

Testimony submitted to the

**U.S House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**

Concerning

**Support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers**

You are in a position to put the United States at the forefront of the aquaculture industry by continued funding of the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program and I urge you to fund the program at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY2010. Seafood continues to rank high on our imports list, second only to oil. Numbers like this indicate the importance of seafood in the American diet. Self reliance on aquaculture production seems to be logical. Culturing seafood products in the United States through aquaculture has unlimited potential. Aquaculture continues to grow in the United States, as well as in other parts of the world. This growth, I believe, comes from several different factors including traditional farmers diversifying operations to improve farm incomes; rural communities improving the rural economy by creating jobs utilizing labor, water, and available land; and fish farmers filling voids created by a declining wild harvest. This wild harvest received a damaging blow in 2007 with the discovery of a viral infection in the Great Lakes region called VHS. In 2006, biologists warned that many marine species are overfished and are in danger of catastrophic population crashes. In 2006, an international team of researchers predicted that all the world's major seafood populations will collapse by 2048 if overfishing and habitat destruction continue. Three fourths of all major marine fisheries are reported to be fully exploited, overfished, or severely depleted. Fish and seafood contributes more than 140 million metric tons of highly valued food every year and is the primary source of animal protein for ¼ of the world's population. With this type of information, it is clear that the aquaculture industry will need to fill this void.

As traditional farming operations continue the trend from small family owned operations to large-scale corporate farms, many family farms continue to look at aquaculture as a way to stay viable or diversify their operation. Losing or reducing critical funding will have a devastating effect on the aquaculture and baitfish industry, which will then trickle down to the sport fishing and agriculture industry in general. Technology in aquaculture is improving at an amazing rate thanks to the RACs and the projects they fund. With the continued growth of newcomers and existing businesses the need for continued research is critical for the aquaculture industry to survive. RACs provide information through multiple sources including research, workshops, educational programs, production manuals, technical bulletins, and extension staffing. Disrupting the funding to these centers would be a major blow to an industry that needs to begin producing on a global scale.

Aquatic Resource Management

Manning, Iowa 51455

712-653-9403

[blankman@lowatel.com.net](mailto:blankman@lowatel.com.net)

The RACs are the lifeline of the aquaculture industry. It is imperative at this time to fully fund to the RACs at \$7.5 million for aquaculture's continued growth. Show your support to the industry by providing the RACs full funding so they may continue the work that is vital to the future. This funding will lead to an industry capable of competing in the world market and limit our need for foreign imports.

Thank You,

James Blankman  
Aquatic Resource Management

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself at this time or at any time in the past.

**VITA**

James Blankman  
3035 400<sup>th</sup> Street  
Manning, Iowa 51455

phone: 712-653-9403  
e-mail: blankman@iowatel.ecom.net

**Education**

B.S. Iowa State University, 1990, Fisheries and Wildlife Biology

**Positions**

**Aquatic Resource Management**, Owner/Manager, 2000-present  
**AR-WE-VA Community Schools**, Biology/Zoology Instructor 2006-present  
**Diversity Farms Inc.**, Wildlife Biologist/Consultant, 1998-2005  
**Loess Hills Aquaculture L.L.C.**, Manager/Co-owner, 1998-2003  
**Archer Daniels Midland**, Fish Production Facility Manager, 1992-1996  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**, Fisheries Biologist, 1988-1991

**Scientific and Professional Organizations**

National Aquaculture Association  
Iowa Aquaculture Association  
Professional Lake Managers Association  
Fish Iowa Educator  
Iowater Stream Monitor  
Pheasants Forever

**Research Projects**

Pond Renovations using Flathead Catfish, USDA SARE Program 2003-2004  
Feasibility Study of Walleye and Yellow Perch, Iowa State University 1998-1999  
Freshwater Shrimp production densities, ADM/Illinois State, 1993-1995  
Production of Pellet-trained Bullfrogs, ADM/Illinois State, 1993-1994  
Using HCG in African Clawed Frogs, ADM/Illinois State, 1994-1995

**Testimony Submitted to**

**U.S. House Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies  
April 10, 2009  
Concerning**

**SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS**

**Written Statement by  
Dr. Michael Timmons  
President**


**HOLDER TIMMONS ENGINEERING LLC  
126 Sunset Drive  
Ithaca, New York 14850**

I am writing in support of the funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Michael B. Timmons and I work in the aquaculture industry in multiple capacities and experiences: consultant (President of Holder Timmons Engineering, LLC), publisher (President, Cayuga Aqua Ventures, LLC, ) produce (former president and founder of Fingerlakes Aquaculture, LLC), and researcher (Professor, Cornell University).

Economic viability and success in aquaculture will be critically dependent upon the generation of appropriate technologies and management methodologies. The RAC facilities play a pivotal role in this process. Any effort to reduce our almost complete dependence upon importation to supply our seafood demand—should be based upon the continued support of our RAC centers that provide a foundation for conducting the near-term applied research that typifies their activities.

I support and am asking for your support to continue the \$7.5 million funding levels for the RAC's for FY 2010.

Sincerely yours,



President, Holder Timmons Engineering LLC



**Disclosure Statement**

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal grants received by Holder Timmons Engineering, LLC In the past year.

Holder Timmons Engineering (nor Cayuga Aqua Ventures, LLC) have received no federal funding in the last year.

VITAE  
Michael Ben Timmons

PERSONAL

## Address and Telephone:

Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering  
302 Riley-Robb Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853  
(607) 255-1630 (Voice) (607) 255-4080 ( FAX) [MBT3@cornell.edu](mailto:MBT3@cornell.edu) (Email)

ACADEMIC:

Ph.D. 1979 Cornell University Agricultural Engineering & Thermal Processes

PROFESSIONAL STATUS:

Licensed Professional Engineer in New York State, License Number 053470

EMPLOYMENT:

November 1983 to date: Professor (Assistant Professor in 1983, promoted to Full Professor in 1992), Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Board of Directors, Aquacultural Engineering Society
  - o (President 2003, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> VP 2002, Sec/Treasurer 1993-95)
- Board of Directors, Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center (USDA)
- Editorial Board, Aquacultural Engineering Journal

HONORS and AWARDS:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2003 | Invited Speaker, "Application of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems", VII Ecuadorian Aquaculture Conference, October 15-17, Hilton Colon Hotel, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Proceedings available from CENAIM.ESPOL.EDU.EC.  |
| 2002 | Keynote Speaker, "Competitive Potential for USA Urban Aquaculture", National Urban Aquaculture Symposium, sponsored by National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Sea Grant College Program, November 16, 2002, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI. |
| 2000 | Named a J. Thomas Clark Professor of Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise at Cornell University (3 year term followed by a 2 year term in 2003)   |

SELECTED PATENTS (6 awarded to date):

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1996 | Timmons, M.B. and R.S. Gates. Microprocessor controller based upon time integrated independent variables for environmental control. Patent Number 5,573,179.               |
| 2003 | Timmons, M.B. Cellular microbead filter for use in water recirculating system. Filed through Cornell Research Foundation. US Patent Number 6,666,965 issued December 2003. |

SELECTED BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS (over 200 publications):

- Timmons, M.B., Ebeling, J.M., 2007 Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, 975 pp. Cayuga Aqua Ventures, Ithaca, NY. ISBN 978-0-9712646-2- 8
- Ebeling, J.M., Timmons, M.B., Joiner, J.A., Labatut, R.A., 2005. Mixed-Cell Raceway: Engineering Design Criteria, Construction, Hydraulic Characterization. Journal of North American Aquaculture, 67(3): 193-201.

Testimony Submitted to

U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

February 2009

*Concerning*

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

*Prepared Statement By*

Peter Struffenegger  
Sterling Caviar LLC  
9149 E. Levee Rd  
Elverta CA 95626

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee :** My name is Peter Struffenegger, I am the general manager of Sterling Caviar LLC, one of the largest producers of farm raised white sturgeon caviar in the US. I am writing providing testimony to support the Regional Aquaculture Centers (administered by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). I ask that you fully fund the five Regional Aquaculture Centers at the authorized level.

Sterling Caviar LLC raises white sturgeon for meat sales to distributors where the fish is either smoked for the specialty markets or sold generally speaking as fresh product to the white tablecloth restaurant market. We also raise females until they are at least eight years old, when some of them begin to mature and we then process the eggs from these fish into premium caviar as well as sell the meat from these females. I am in charge of the production, processing and sales of both meat and caviar. I have been involved in sturgeon culture since 1986, prior to that I have raised catfish and salmon under commercial production for the US market. I have been the President and Chairman of the Board of the California Aquaculture Association, also Chairman of the California Farm Bureau Federation Aquaculture Commodity Advisory Committee as well as the Chair of the American Farm Bureau Federation Aquaculture Commodity Advisory Committee. I have also been vice president of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau Board of Directors as well as other industry committees.

The national trend towards a healthier diet is increasing the per person consumption of fish, recognized for its health benefits derived from eating high quality fish. At the same time that this is occurring, this need is leading to what many recognize worldwide as over-fishing of the various fish resources of the world. Aquaculture, the practice of raising fish, shellfish and plants in fresh, brackish or salt water offers one of the few remaining alternatives to this increasing demand. The key to ensuring that aquaculture remains a viable industry is to ensure that

aquaculture is done in an environmentally friendly way in a manner that is sustainable now and well into the future.

Additionally, the recent spate of headlines dealing with food safety issues related to a variety of imported products has raised the concerns of the consuming public as to the safety of their food supply. With the US being a huge importer of seafood products, the need for increased production of domestic farm raised seafood, produced under the strict regulatory environment provided by the US Food and Drug Administration is needed, to meet this increasing demand.

The need for more research on both species currently reared commercially in the US as well as new species is of the highest importance. The US is starting to loose out on cheaper, poorer quality seafood products being imported into the US. US producers are loosing out due to higher regulatory costs, higher environmental costs, higher labor and benefits costs and many other costs that are making us become increasingly less competitive. The need for research on how to grow fish and shellfish cheaper, quicker, with fewer input costs is imperative to help continue to meet the challenges of dealing with the un-level playing field we are increasingly facing when dealing with the challenges of imported seafood. The need for new species development is also important, in being able to offer US consumers a higher variety of seafood choices for their consideration.

Thus the need to fund the Regional Aquaculture Centers should be a high consideration in all budget considerations currently going on at the Federal level. The consequences of becoming un-competitive in the international playing field and for the US to become a larger debtor nation in another aspect of our food supply is un-acceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers.

Sincerely,



Peter Struffenegger  
Manager  
Sterling Caviar LLC

*Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself at this time or at any time in the past.*

**Peter Struffenegger**

12331 Blake Rd.

Wilton CA 95693

Home; 916/687-4684

Cell: 916/548-4350

PStruff@frontier.net.net

**Experience:** Took a company from inception with three employees with \$60k per year in sales in 1986 to the largest US farm-raised caviar business with 22 employees and sales of about \$8m in 2006 through growth, merger and contract growers. Developed procedures and systems to accomplish both meat and caviar production. Sit on the Board of Managers of the LLC and prepare presentations for the board meetings. The company is now a division of a public company. Helped devise systems and controls for accounting procedures such as inventory investment, cost of goods for meat and caviar and other accounting procedures. Responsible for A/P, A/R; HR; development and implementation of a worker safety program (IPP); development of a company policy book with implementation and compliance; production of product; processing of product and HACCP plan development and compliance; sales and marketing, annual budgeting; new construction and repair and maintenance; contract negotiation and R&D. Work on all aspects of regulatory compliance and development of relationships with various environmental groups supportive of sustainable aquaculture. Involvement in numerous University research projects on various aspects of sturgeon culture and caviar production, and helped researchers obtain grants and provided support for some 20+ PhD students and some 8 MS projects. Also involved in the politics of the industry through representation on various statewide and national policy development and implementation organizations.

**Other activities:**

**Board of Directors: California Aquaculture Association** 1987-1997. Vice-President 1989, President 1990, 1992, Chairman of the Board 1991. As Chairman, took a volunteer organization during a period of volatile regulatory changes and hired an Executive Director.

**Board of Directors: Sacramento County Farm Bureau** 1988-1998 First Vice-President 1997, represented SCFB as an alternate on the Sacramento County Open Space Task Force.

**California Farm Bureau Federation**  
Natural Resources Committee 1989-1991, Commodity Advisory Committee, 1989-present (chairman 1995-1997, 2005-2006), Policy Resolutions Committee 1996-1998, 2005, Congressional Governmental Affairs trip representative to Washington DC 1993.

**California Sea Grant Advisory Committee/Living Marine Resources Committee** 1989-1998. Reviewed university researchers proposals for scientific and industry merits for funding from an industry standpoint.

**American Farm Bureau Federation Commodity Advisory Committee** 1994-1997, 2005-2006, Chairman 1996, 1997

**Speaker:** **Aquaculture Summit**, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1990. One of four industry representatives at the first-ever meeting sponsored by the USFWS relating to regulation of the aquaculture industry.  
**World Aquaculture Society Meeting**, San Diego, California, 1995. Presenter and round table discussion leader at a whole day session on sturgeon.  
**National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators**, Palm Springs, CA, 1998. Speaker on intensive aquaculture considerations and regulation.  
**Fourth International Sturgeon Symposium**, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 2001. Co-moderator with USFWS on a full day session on international trade issues relating to sturgeon.  
**Speaker, Epcot Food & Wine Festival**, 2005 Gave three-day sessions on caviar production and consumption to the first-ever Epcot Food & Wine Festival Speaker Series.

**Education:** **Humboldt State University** BS Fisheries Biology, March 1979  
 University of California, Santa Barbara BA Aquatic Biology March 1978

**Research:** **Principle Investigator**, Small Business Innovative Research Grant (SBIR) from USDA 1989-1990.  
**California Sea Grant**, Participant in numerous research projects revolving around white sturgeon maturation and biology 1989-1992.  
**National Coastal Resources Research and Development Institute (NCRI)** 1994-1996, transfer of technology from UCD to private companies.  
**Adviser, USDA Western Regional Aquaculture Center**, Technical advisor for a 4 year food science study of caviar.

**Key Skills:** **Managerial:**  
 É Supervision and team building  
 É Evaluation of cost-cutting measures  
 É Budgeting  
 É Capitalization projects  
 É Project management  
 É Inter-departmental coordination  
 É Governmental relations/Regulatory compliance  
**Technical:**  
 É Proficient at Excel, Word, Access and other computer applications  
 É Experience in hands-on construction and maintenance and repair

Testimony Submitted to  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Prepared Statement by

BRIAN ALLEE, Ph.D.  
FISHERIES CONSULTANT  
7125 SW35<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97219

March 2009

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Brian Allee. It is my pleasure to provide testimony before your subcommittee to support the Regional Aquaculture Centers (administered by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), which are engaged across the United States providing critical research funding and training future leaders in the field of Aquaculture. The past history of the Regional Center yearly appropriations has exhibited essentially level funding but when translated to 1987 dollars (the year the RACS were established) the funds have shown a significant decline. Your support is critical to suspend the decline in funds and I urgently ask you to fully fund the five Regional Aquaculture Centers to the authorization level of \$7.5 million.

I retired from the University of Alaska Fairbanks as the Alaska Sea Grant Director in 2008 and am currently a private fisheries consultant working in Portland, Oregon. I received my Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Washington and have been active in the fisheries field in Oregon, Washington and Alaska for over 35 years. During my professional career I have worked in the private and private non-profit sector, the public sector and in the University.

As an active participant in the founding and operations of the RACs, I have critically observed the competitive process for the use of the research funds to support the aquaculture industry in the 12 western states under the direction of the Western Regional Aquaculture Center at the University of Washington. I have been a member of the Industry Advisory Council, its Chairman, a member of the Board of Directors and its Chairman since the inception of the program. During this time I have seen and participated in the detailed process as to how the research funds are allocated and I can verify that, after the peer review process, only good science is funded. This system assures that research solutions benefiting the Aquaculture industry are ultimately selected and the education of graduate students is achieved. It is

important to understand that the research funds are allocated based upon real, practical high priority industry needs and the proposals that are solicited to help solve those industry needs are competed for in a full peer review protocol. Additionally, all the funded research has an extension component, which provides important outreach education to the industry.

The approach of funding research at all five Regional Aquaculture Centers is designed to make our Aquaculture industry in the United States more competitive serving the health needs of our consumers. I submit to your subcommittee that a competitive and robust Aquaculture industry is a key component in reversing the negative balance of trade for seafood products and provides needed jobs for well-trained graduates from our nations universities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Regional Aquaculture Centers for research funding, which stimulates and grows the Aquaculture business in the United States and provides jobs.

Sincerely,

**Brian Allee, Ph.D.,  
Fisheries Consultant**

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of House of Representatives, I hereby state that I receive no Federal grant funds after my retirement from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I currently have a one-year contract with the NOAA Fisheries. The work of the one-year contract is directed towards fisheries services not related to Aquaculture research.



**BRIAN JAMES ALLEE**  
 7125 S.W. 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97219  
 PH: 503 246 3104

**EDUCATION**

University of Washington, Ph.D. Fisheries, 1974  
 University of California, B.A. Zoology, 1965

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Fisheries Society (AFS) President, Fish Culture Section AFS  
 Past Chairman of the Board and member, Western Regional Aquaculture Center, University of Washington  
 Past Industry Advisor, University of Washington Sea Grant Program  
 Past Member, Technical Review Panel, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
 Past Member, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
 Past Chairman, Fisheries Technical Review, Alaska Science and Technology Foundation  
 Past Member, Alaska Science and Engineering Commission  
 Past Member, Advisory Council, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Brian Allee, Ph.D. Fisheries Consultant**  
 7125 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 2008 – Present

- É Fisheries consultant with 35 years of experience in the University, public agency, private and private non-profit sectors in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska
- É Member of a three-person team that conducted an operational audit of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Delayed Release Program of the Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife for the Washington State Auditor's Office in 2008.
- É Currently working on a one-year contract with NOAA Fisheries in the Salmon Recovery Division of the Northwest Region in Portland, Oregon. Present assignments include: reviewing research, which investigates the effects of hatchery origin fish on natural origin fish, technical writing and editing of the Mitchell Act Hatcheries EIS and the Puget Sound EIS, and, organizing a workshop as member of an ad hoc committee on the status of ecological interactions of hatchery origin fish on natural origin fish in the freshwater, the migration corridor, and the estuary habitats of Columbia River.

**Director Alaska Sea Grant College Program - University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences**  
 Fairbanks, AK 2003 - 2008

- É In this executive-level position, he provides leadership and programmatic oversight for the entire statewide organization with broad responsibilities promoting, marine research, education and extension through the marine advisory program throughout the state.
- É Responsible for fiscal management of federal funds, state matching funds, and the implementation of programs and collaborations in education and communication, research and outreach in 11 coastal communities.
- É Reporting to the Dean of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Dr.

- Allee made strategic investments in new and innovative program areas and managed a new strategic planning effort providing future programmatic direction.
- É Created a new statewide 28-member advisory committee made up of state and federal agencies, industry and NGOs to provide guidance and help to build program excellence.
  - É Member of the national Sea Grant Association and interacts with the national Sea Grant office Director and staff and provides information and education to the Congressional Delegation staff and Members.
  - É Led the ASG program in a national 5-year review and attained a national ranking among the best Sea Grant College Programs in the United States.
  - É Principle investigator on 5 major grants: one of which is the development of a new curriculum for the Alaska Seas and Coasts program (K-8) and a new development to produce a Alaska Regional Research and Information Plan.
  - É Project manager of a new initiative to conduct research on rehabilitating depressed Alaska red and blue king crab stocks - a unique partnership between federal and state agencies, coastal communities and the university.
- Northwest Power Planning Council Portland, OR 2002 - 2003**  
**Manager of Policy and Program Implementation, Fish and Wildlife Division.**
- É Project manager for a four state (Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana), regional in scope, sub-basin planning process in the Columbia River encompassing 62 sub-basins including the estuary and ocean.
  - É Two-year and \$15 million project integrating ESA listed species and non-listed species of fish and wildlife involved working with 13 tribes, multiple state and federal agencies and NGOs in the region.
  - É Responsible for developing a regional research plan, and a programmatic evaluation of the role of the ocean in the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.
- Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority Executive Director**  
**Portland, OR 1996 - 2002**
- É Chief Administrative Officer responsible for carrying out the policy directives of the members. CBFWA is an association composed of Regional Directors, State Directors, and Tribal Chairmen of two federal, four state agencies, and 13 Indian tribes with fish and wildlife management responsibilities in the Columbia Basin, which encompasses Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.
  - É Responsible for supervising staff, preparing annual budgets, and managing the fiscal affairs of the CBFWA. Served as liaison between agencies, tribes, and the natural resource interest groups, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Northwest Power Planning Council. CBFWA members recommend projects for the protection, enhancement, mitigation and recovery of fish and wildlife populations in the Columbia River Basin as a part of the Northwest Power Planning Council's provincial review process. The work plan is composed of projects to be funded within the \$127 million annual budget.
  - É Also President of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which serves as the financial entity for the CBFWA.
- Harza Consulting Engineers & Scientists, Bellevue, WA 1992-1996**
- É Provided technical direction in the development, staffing, and implementation

of fisheries programs; participated in fisheries projects as project manager or as a fisheries scientist; and conducted the final review of all reports prepared by the fisheries staff.

- É Project management of the chinook, coho and steelhead restoration studies on the Upper Cowlitz River for the Bonneville Power Administration, senior fisheries scientist on the Cowlitz River FERC Re-licensing Studies for Tacoma Public Utilities, project management of a comprehensive fisheries study in tributaries of the Green River for the City of Kent, senior fisheries scientist for fish passage analysis on the Sacramento River in California for the Corps of Engineers, and project management of a fisheries habitat and riparian study on Winston Creek for Champion International Corporation.

**Clear Springs Foods-Coast Oyster Company, Vice President of Operations, South Bend, WA 1991-1992**

- É Responsible for operating a large vertically-integrated oyster and manila clam business including three processing plants, 21,000 acres of oyster and clam growing ground in Washington and California and a 20 billion capacity oyster larvae hatchery.
- É Managed, planned and implemented a budget in excess of \$10 million and a staff of 300 hatchery permanent and seasonal employees which involved extensive interaction with county and state agencies on water quality and product quality issues, as well as, coordinating programs on research with Pacific Coast universities and agencies.
- É Elected President of the Pacific Coast Oyster Grower's Association.

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development, AK 1987-1991**

**Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, AK 1982-1987**

**Weyerhaeuser Company, Oregon Aqua-Foods, OR & WA 1973-1982**

**Quinault Resource Development Project, Quinault Indian Nation, WA 1971 - 1973**

**PROFESSIONAL  
ACTIVITIES**

**Member:**

- Alaska Ocean Observing System, 2004-2008.
- Texas Sea Grant College Program, Program Assessment Team Review, 2004.
- National Sea Grant Fisheries Theme Team 2004-2008.
- Board, Western Regional Aquaculture Center, University of Washington, 1993-2008
- Scientific & Statistical Committee, Pacific Fisheries Management Council, 2001-02
- Technical Review Panel, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, 2000 and 2001
- Alaska Representative of the Sea Grant Committee on the Integrated Ocean Observing System, 2004-2008.

**President/Chairman:**

- Board, Western Regional Aquaculture Center, University of Washington, 1999-2005.
- National Review Panel, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Program, Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, 1998.
- President, Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society, 1993-94
- Industry Advisory Council, Western Regional Aquaculture Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1993-2000.



*Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery*  
*PO Box 369*  
*Seward, AK 99664*  
*907 224-5181 224-5282 fax*  
*jjh@seward.net*

Testimony Submitted to

**U.S House Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration  
And Related Agencies**

February 2009

*Concerning*

**Support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers**

*Prepared Statement By*

**Jeff Hetrick, Director  
Alaska Shellfish Institute  
P.O. Box 369  
Seward, Alaska 99664**

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: My name is Jeff Hetrick. I am writing in support of continued and increased support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers administered by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).**

**I am the Director of the Alaska Shellfish Institute and Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery located in Seward, Alaska. We raise shellfish such as oysters, cockles and geoduck clams for the private aquatic farm industry. We also raise razor clams and littleneck clams for the personal use and subsistence fisheries. In addition we have recently developed techniques for raising the purple-hinge rock scallop and sea cucumbers and most excitingly blue and red king crab.**

**I have been involved with the aquaculture industry in Alaska for 25 years starting with the hatchery development and enhancement projects with Pacific salmon. I have owned and operated my own oyster farm and have been involved with all**

facets of developing the shellfish mariculture industry through drafting legislation as President of the Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association, representing Alaska on the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association and WRAC as an Industry Advisory Council Representative, its Chairman and Executive Committee member.

I am writing in support of continued and increased support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers. I am most familiar with the Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC) and the projects that have been funded over the past ten years of my involvement. WRAC is set up as an unusual case where the industry is the driver for the process. Priorities are determined by members from represented states, passed on to researchers and the results transmitted directly back to the industry for application. The process is highly responsive and efficient with a long list of success stories.

Unfortunately, the RACs have not been funded at their authorized level and have remained even-funded for many years. At a time when worldwide capture fisheries are failing to keep up with consumption, the worldwide aquaculture production is expanding logarithmically to meet the incredible demand. The U.S. contribution has become insignificant. It is important that the U.S. not continue to fall behind worldwide efforts. Funding the RACs to their authorized levels should assist the U.S. aquaculture industry in reducing the trade imbalance for imported seafood and expand domestic and international markets for the species native to North America.

Again, I encourage you to fund the RACs to their full level.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hetrick  
Director  
Alaska Shellfish Institute

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of House of representatives I hereby provide information regarding federal grant monies received. The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery has received federal funding from NOAA Aquaculture, the American Native Administration and NMFS Nearshore program.

**James "Jeff" Hetrick**

P.O. Box 369  
 Seward, Alaska 99664  
 (907) 288 3667  
 jjh@seward.net

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**Profile**

Over 25 years experience in Alaskan salmon and shellfish culture and enhancement and marine resource development specializing in remote native villages and rural area.  
 Excellent communication, computer, grant writing and organizational and project management skills.

**Education**

**Bachelor of Science- Biological Science/Fisheries** 1980  
 University of Maryland, College Park, Md.  
**Master of Business Administration**  
 Portland State University, Portland, Oregon  
 California Coast University, California 1995

**Relevant Experience and Accomplishments****Shellfish Aquaculture**

Director of the Alutiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery and Mariculture Technical Center in Seward, Alaska. Active in developing the shellfish aquatic farm industry in Alaska. Helped author the Aquatic Farm Act (1988) and developed subsequent regulations and policies for State and Federal agencies to manage aquatic farm industry. Owner operator of Alaska Aquafarms Inc, oyster farm in Prince William Sound.

**Resource Development**

Presently working on Razor clam restoration project for the Native Village of Eyak. Completed a five-year Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration project that reintroduced native littleneck clams near Tatitlek, Port Graham and Nanwalek. Villagers are now harvesting clams and the project is expanding to 5 additional villages.

**Economic Development**

Assisted in developing oyster culture operations in the native villages of Tatitlek, Chenega Bay and Eyak. Involved with Economic Development on the Kenai Peninsula and community of Moose Pass.

**Salmon Aquaculture, Hatchery Management and Operations**

Successfully developed sockeye salmon pathology protocols to combat IHNVirus enabling the mass production of sockeye salmon smolt. Pioneered age zero smolt technology and developed production scale thermal marking program.

**Business Management**

Own and operate several businesses including Spruce Moose Bed and Breakfast and Alaska Aquafarms, one of Alaska's first shellfish farms. Part owner of JJM Investments LTD, a real estate investment firm.

**Employment History****2001- Present Director Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery**

Director of Alaska's only shellfish hatchery in Seward. Developing new species for enhancement and the shellfish aquatic farm industry. Most recently developed production techniques for

**1992-Present Mariculture Consultant-Chugach Regional Resources Commission-(CRRRC)**

Developed mariculture operations for CRRRC, including Tatitlek Village Oyster Farm, Chenega Bay Shellfish Nursery, Quteckak Pilot Shellfish Hatchery and Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Clam Enhancement Project. The projects included complete development from grant writing and administration, permitting, NEPA documents, project implementation, training and management of personnel, budgeting, accounting and reporting. Authored and presented several articles and scientific papers.

Presently working on natural resource management programs and shellfish enhancement projects for native village councils in South-central Alaska and native participation in the EVOS GEM project.

**1988-2000 Hatchery Manager**

Managed Trail Lakes Hatchery for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, a sockeye and coho salmon facility with an annual production of 20 million salmon. Responsible for management of 4 permanent staff, up to 10 seasonal employees and a large operating and capital budget.

1980-1988 **Assistant Hatchery Manager**. Assisted in managing and developing facilities for Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation.

**Affiliations /Memberships**Professional

Western Regional Aquaculture Center – Executive Board Member

Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association - Executive Committee

National Aquaculture Association- Board Member

American Fisheries Society

Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association- Board Member

Alaska Department of Fish Game –Seward Advisory Group

Moose Pass Planning Commission

Resource Conservation and Development Representative

*Testimony Submitted to*

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

Concerning

**SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS**

*Prepared Statement By*

**THEODORE J. SMITH  
SMITHAQUATIC CONSULTING  
&  
TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE, VALLEY CAMPUS  
1011 MAIN STREET  
ALAMOSA, COLORADO 81101**

**MARCH 2009**

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:**

My name is Theodore James Smith. It is truly an honor to provide testimony before your honorable subcommittee in support of the Regional Aquaculture Centers (RACs) - administered by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, And Extension Service (CSREES). The mission of the RAC program is "to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and education to enhance viable and profitable US aquaculture production for the benefit of consumers, producers, service industries, and the American economy". The RACs began their first organizational activities back in 1987. Since this time the industry-driven research, education and extension functions generated through the RACs have proven invaluable to the US Aquaculture Industry as a whole. However, since this time the yearly appropriations have exhibited essentially flat funding and when translated into 1987 dollars this funding has shown a significant decline. This testimony is submitted to urge your support for full funding of the RACs at the authorized level of \$7.5 million.

I have been employed within the US Aquaculture Industry as a food fish producer, aquaculture consultant and educator for 25 years now. I am currently the Director and Professor of the Aquaculture Technician Program at Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus. Founded in 1925, TSJC is the oldest junior college in the Great State of Colorado. Since 2003 I have served on the Board of Directors of the National Aquaculture Association as a State Representative. Since 1998 I have served as a member of the Industry Advisory Council for the **Western Regional Aquaculture Center** and as the Treasurer and Past-President of the Colorado Aquaculture Association since 1992.



A recent report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization states the global Aquaculture Industry's current growth rate of 6% is too slow to make up for the shortfall caused by the decline in capture fisheries and by the increase in demand for seafood. Thus, at a time when other industries are stagnant or going under, Aquaculture continues to grow and needs to grow faster! This fact alone warrants your support for full funding of the RACs at the authorized level of \$7.5 million. If the United States is to remain strong and competitive within this global growth industry we must invest more into Aquaculture here at home.

As fellow Americans we are all painfully aware of the tough economic challenges we currently face. It is my firm belief that if we are to strengthen our domestic economy; if we are to maintain our competitive edge as an economic superpower; and if we are to cut our dependence on foreign oil by the development of alternative energy (i.e. biodiesel from aquatic microalgae); then we as a Nation will be required to invest more of our federal tax dollars into sustainable industries like Aquaculture because this is where the *green collar workforce* jobs of tomorrow will take place. Aquaculture is exactly the type of sustainable industry which will help to jumpstart the American Economy once again.

Since the highly successful RAC program contributes benefits which far exceed its budgetary investment, I urgently ask you to support the five Regional Aquaculture Centers at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Regional Aquaculture Centers.

Sincerely,  
**Theodore J. Smith**  
 Director & Professor of Aquaculture  
 Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of House of representatives I hereby provide information regarding federal grant monies I have received for the following:

- 2007 – 2009** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program, Award Number: 2007-38414-18092, Proposal Number: 2007-02079 "*Trinidad State Junior College Fish Processing Project*".
- 2004 – 2006** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 04-38422-14640, Proposal Number: 2004-03814 "*Aquaculture Education: Creating Career Pathways and Innovative Training for Hispanics*".
- 1999 - 2001** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 99-38422-8031, Proposal Number: 1999-04350 "*21<sup>st</sup> Century Farmer through High Tech/High Touch Innovative Training*".
- 1997 – 1999** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 97-38422-4592, Proposal Number: 1997-04189 "*High Desert Aquaculture Using Aquifers, High Technology, and Innovative Training*".

**Theodore James Smith**  
**8351 South River Road**  
**Alamosa, Colorado 81101**  
**(719) 589-5681 or (719) 589-7049**  
**Fax 719-589-7005**  
**Ted.smith@trinidadstate.edu**

### Education & Certifications

- 1996 - 2013 Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education  
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado  
 Vocational Teaching Credential, Specific program area in Aquaculture
- 1980 - 1984 Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado  
 Bachelor of Science Degree  
 Major in Fishery Biology with concentration in Aquaculture
- 2008 Washington State University, Warm Springs, Oregon  
 HACCP Training & Certification in seafood industry standards

### Professional Experience

- Feb. 1996- Present **Director/ Professor of Aquaculture Technician Program**  
**Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus, Alamosa, Colorado**
- July 1992 - Sept. 1995 **General Manager**  
**Faucette & Smith Fish Company, (currently, Colorado Catch, LLC),**  
**Sanford, Colorado**
- Oct. 1989 - July 1992 **Manager of Fish Production/Chief Biologist**  
**Aquafarm Associates of Colorado, Inc., Denver, Colorado**
- Sept. 1985 - Oct. 1989 **Facility Manager**  
**Aquatic Systems, Inc., (currently, KENT Sea Tech Corp.), San Diego,**  
**California**
- 1984 -1985 **Fish Culturist**  
**Colorado Division of Wildlife, Rifle Falls Hatchery & Rearing Unit, Rifle,**  
**Colorado**

### Elected Positions, Committees, and Awards

- 2009 **Faculty of the Year, Trinidad State Junior College-Valley Campus, Full-time Faculty**
- 2006 **Colorado Community College System Outstanding Program of the Year**
- 1992 - Present **Colorado Aquaculture Association, Treasurer & Past President**
- 1995 - 2006 **Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Aquaculture Board, Chair**

- 2003 – Present** National Aquaculture Association, State Association Board Seat, **Director**  
**1998 - Present** Western Regional Aquaculture Center, Industry Advisory Council, **Member**  
**1999 - 2003** Colorado Community College System, Agriculture Tech Prep Consortium, **Member**  
**2002** Faculty of the Year, Trinidad State Junior College-Valley Campus, **Full-time Faculty**  
**2000** United States Dept. Agriculture-Hispanic Serving Institutions Fellows Program, **Fellow**

#### **Peer Review Publications**

Zuckerman, Laurence D., Theodore J. Smith, and Robert J. Benke. Hybridization Between *Catostomus plebeius* and *C. commersoni* in the Rio Grande Basin, Colorado. Abstracts of the Combined Meetings of the 64th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, 32nd Annual Meeting of the Herpetologists' League and the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 28 July-3 August 1984.

#### **Grant History**

- 2007 – 2009** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program, Award Number: 2007-38414-18092, Proposal Number: 2007-02079  
*"Trinidad State Junior College Fish Processing Project"*, **Project Director.**
- 2004 – 2006** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 04-38422-14640, Proposal Number: 2004-03814  
*"Aquaculture Education: Creating Career Pathways and Innovative Training for Hispanics"*, **Project Director.**
- 1999 - 2001** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 99-38422-8031, Proposal Number: 1999-04350  
*"21<sup>st</sup> Century Farmer through High Tech/High Touch Innovative Training"*, **Senior Associate.**
- 1997 – 1999** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 97-38422-4592, Proposal Number: 1997-04189  
*"High Desert Aquaculture Using Aquifer's, High Technology, and Innovative Training"*, **Senior Associate.**



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**Bill Troutt**  
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Pine Bluff, AR

**Steve Kuefer**  
Paragould, AR

**Linda Smith**  
Lake Village, AR

**Jerry Williamson**  
Lake Village, AR

Testimony Submitted To  
U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

March, 2009

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by

Charles M. Collins  
Executive Director  
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas  
2705 Michelle Drive  
Mena, Arkansas 71953

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Center program. My name is Charles M. Collins and I am Executive Director of Catfish Farmers of Arkansas. The association that I represent was established in 1975 and is made up of catfish producers, suppliers/industry related businesses, researchers/education personnel, and others involved in promoting, producing, and marketing U.S. Farm Raised Catfish. On behalf of the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas, I am requesting that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY 2010. Full funding is essential for the Centers to retain the effectiveness they demonstrated over the last 20 years.

Aquaculture in the United States has grown to be of significant importance in many areas. United States aquaculture industries and their product markets have matured to the point where the dynamics of national economy, federal and state policies, and international trade can have significant and unanticipated effects on the financial health of United States aquaculture businesses.

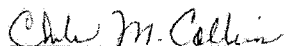
Economics research is essential to provide scientifically sound models that can be used to forecast industry trends, effects of anticipated macroeconomics factors, and impacts of proposed policy initiatives. The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center's project "Economic Forecasting and Policy Analysis Models for Catfish and Trout" will identify, develop, and validate economic forecasting models for catfish and trout. No aquaculture businesses have the economics expertise with which to develop these models, but other segments of the agriculture and food sectors rely upon such models. To be competitive, United States aquaculture will need to have these same types of sophisticated models. Thus, this Southern Regional Aquaculture Center project will provide an important tool for the United States aquaculture industry.

United States aquaculture is facing increased competition from international imports of similar products. Understanding current trends in the markets for mature products (i.e., catfish fillets) and new products is fundamental to the design of effective business marketing strategies. There is a critical need for a comprehensive study to understand prices and pricing, sales volumes, and trends for fresh and frozen farm-raised fish, shellfish, and crustaceans with an emphasis on competition from imports. Marketing research and tools form the fundamental support from which individual companies can develop sales and advertising strategies and generic advertising programs.

The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center project "Using National Retail Databases to Determine Market Trends for Southern Aquaculture Products" will use national databases to analyze retail supermarket sales of fresh and frozen U.S. farm raised catfish, crawfish, clams, and prawn/shrimp products. This project will generate valuable market research information on competing seafood products in key cities and regions in the United States that is necessary for United States aquaculture businesses to remain competitive.

The above mentioned projects represent only a small part of the Regional Aquaculture Center programs. The program has been level-funded for almost the past twenty-one years, and this is a time when we especially need to increase our research efforts in aquaculture and not eliminate this important program. The U.S. Farm Raised Catfish Industry is presently faced with severe economic problems and needs assistance to help bring this industry back to profitability. The Regional Aquaculture Center Program can assist in helping solve some of these problems.

Catfish Farmers of Arkansas recommends that the Regional Aquaculture Center Program receive full funding.



Charles M. Collins  
Executive Director  
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself, nor is the Association supported by Federal funds.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Charles M. ABo@Collins**  
**2705 Michelle Drive**  
**Mena, Arkansas 71953**  
**(870) 672-1716**  
**(479) 437-3081**  
**EMAIL: cfarkansas@sbcglobal.net**  
**bocollins2705@sbcglobal.net**

**EDUCATION**

BS, 1960, Fisheries Science  
Oklahoma State University

**PRESENT POSITION**

Executive Director, Catfish Farmers of Arkansas

**POSITIONS HELD**

1985 B2003 Fisheries Biologist at USDA Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National  
Aquaculture Research Center, Stuttgart, AR

1980 B1985 Project Leader, Tennessee Valley Authority Waste Heat Aquaculture  
Project, Gallatin, TN

1968 B1980 Aquaculture Extension and Research Biologist, Kerr Agricultural  
Foundation, Inc., Poteau, OK

1961 B1968 Fisheries Biologist, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation,  
Oklahoma City, OK

1960 B1961 U.S. Army Reserve, Artillery Training, Fort Sill, OK

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Authored 83 manuscripts in various aquaculture journals and magazines

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Catfish Farmers of Arkansas  
Catfish Farmers of America  
National Aquaculture Association

**HONORS/AWARDS/PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

Certified Fisheries Scientist by the American Fisheries Society  
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas Service Award in 1999

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Testimony Submitted to  
U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

April, 2009

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by  
Mr. Robert L. (Shorty) Jones  
1017 Greenfield Road  
Glen Allan, Mississippi 38744  
662-839-5555

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: I am pleased to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Center program. My name is Robert (Shorty) Jones and I own AquaCenter, one of the largest aquaculture supply businesses in the world. I have also been a catfish farmer since 1990 and produce approximately 85 million high-quality fingerling catfish annually that are used by catfish farmers in five states. I presently serve as President of the Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, and I am on the Board of Directors for the Catfish Farmers of America. I am requesting that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY 2010. The Regional Aquaculture Centers have demonstrated that they are highly effective at meeting the research and education needs of the United States aquaculture industry, and full funding is essential for the Centers to retain that effectiveness.

Catfish farming is the largest aquaculture industry in the United States but we are in trouble. We were once the most vigorous, rapid-growing, and vital sector of domestic agriculture, but farm profits have rapidly decreased or, in many cases, are absent. We have been forced to compete with imported seafoods (primarily from Asia) that are produced at an advantage because of low labor costs, the absence of regulatory oversight, and production in non-market economies. As you are well aware, relying on imports for food is an uncomfortable position for consumers because of concerns with food quality and safety.

Our future therefore rests on the ability of American farmers to recapture production efficiencies by making use of technological advances.

The USDA Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC) has a 20-year history of supporting American fish farmers. The Center is the only funding activity that I know of where farmers identify the projects that are to be solved by scientists. Because projects are identified and developed at the grass-roots level, the results have practical benefits that are quickly delivered to the farmer.

One current SRAC project clearly shows the responsiveness of the program to farmers and the ability of the Regional Center program to respond to urgent industry needs. The project addresses the absence of good marketing information for aquaculture products, which is so important in these times when imported products compete with domestic products in the marketplace. Marketing information for other crops is usually generated within the private sector, but most aquaculture commodities lack the infrastructure or funds to undertake marketing studies. The SRAC project will develop tools to access retail databases that will allow tracking of supermarket trends in pricing strategies, product substitution, and changing consumer buying patterns. This information will be critical to individual farms and to generic advertising initiatives. This ambitious project was developed at the request of aquaculture industry representatives.

One of the most successful projects recently has been the research into ways to make a hybrid catfish by crossing two native North American catfishes—the channel and blue catfish. This fish possesses superior qualities, but supplies of the fish have been severely hampered by our limited knowledge of reproductive biology. The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center project has addressed that problem in a 4-year project that involves nine top scientists from five institutions and agencies in the southeast. Their work has contributed to a 600% increase in hybrid catfish production over a 5-year period. The Center also is developing another project that continues to address reproductive inefficiencies in aquaculture. It is important to restate that both these projects were identified as priorities by farmers in the region and then developed to make use of unique expertise at various universities and agencies in the southeast.

The Regional Aquaculture Centers have been level-funded at about 50% of the authorized funding level amount for almost 20 years. Level funding has greatly diminished the capabilities of the Centers to address problems facing the industry, especially in these extremely critical times. I strongly urge Congress to fund the Regional Aquaculture Center program for the fully authorized \$7.5 million for the next fiscal year. Full funding is an excellent investment in an economic sector that creates jobs and fosters economic growth in rural areas of the U.S. and is essential for the U.S. aquaculture industry to remain competitive and to improve productivity and efficiency.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that I have not received Federal Grant monies.



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Robert L. (Shorty) Jones  
1017 Greenfield Road  
Glen Allan, MS 38744  
(662) 839-5555

## **Education**

Glen Allan High School, graduated 1975

## **Work Experience**

1975-1981 Noble Drilling Corporation  
After graduating from high school I started working in the Gulf of Mexico drilling for oil and gas. In 1978 I became the youngest driller to ever work for the company.

1981-1986 Kajun Directional Drilling  
I was the youngest directional driller to work in the Gulf of Mexico. I was instrumental in developing Mobil Oil's oil field in Mobile, Alabama by using new and different techniques.

1987-Present AquaCenter, Inc.  
I started this company in Leland, Mississippi, supplying chemicals and equipment to the catfish industry. Later we started the catalog division and now supply multiple species customers. While being involved with AquaCenter I have traveled to many parts of the world and have been proud to support the U.S. farm-raised catfish industry.

1990-Present Needmore Fisheries  
We hatch catfish fry and raise fingerlings which we sell over several states. We are currently involved in hybrid catfish production, where we are using blue males and channel females.

## **Professional Affiliations**

Catfish Farmers of America Board Member  
Catfish Farmers of Mississippi President  
SRAC Steering Committees Member

Robert L. (Shorty) Jones - Page 2

Mississippi State University Advisory Committee for Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Delta Council Member  
National Aquaculture Association Member  
California Aquaculture Association Member  
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas Member  
Catfish Institute Working Advisory Committee Member



Testimony Submitted to  
U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

March 2009

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by

Mitt Walker, Director  
Alabama Catfish Producers  
PO Box 11000  
Montgomery, AL 36191

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: It is an honor to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Mitt Walker, and I am the Director of the Alabama Catfish Producers, a division of the Alabama Farmers Federation. I have served in this capacity for almost four years, but have worked in the field of agriculture for more than a decade. I am requesting, on behalf of the Alabama Catfish Producers, that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY 2010. The RAC program is an unusually effective federal program, and full funding is needed to retain this effectiveness.

Today, the catfish industry continues to face a crisis as a result of foreign competition, rising input costs, and concerns about how the current economic situation will impact consumer demand. It is critical to reduce costs to maintain profitability, while ensuring production of a quality product. Our industry – which is still hanging on as one of the main economic engines of two of the country's most economically depressed areas, the Alabama Black Belt and the Mississippi Delta – is in need of support. Farm profits are shrinking or absent, and we are increasingly forced to compete with seafood imports (primarily from Asia) that are produced at an advantage because of low labor costs and the absence of regulatory oversight. Our future rests on the ability of American farmers to recapture production efficiencies by making use of technological advances.

Catfish farming is by far the largest aquaculture industry in the United States. However, we are continuing to see our market share decline as a result of cheap imports from countries like Vietnam and China. In 2004, imports from these countries made up less than four percent of sales in the U.S. By 2008, this number had risen to more than thirty-three percent. In fact, when looking at frozen catfish fillets in the marketplace, imports made up about half of this supply. During this same period we have seen the price of catfish feed go from about \$260 per ton to a high of almost \$440 per ton in 2008. Catfish feed, comprised mainly of soybean meal and corn, makes up more than half of the input costs in producing catfish.

The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center has been in the business of helping the domestic catfish producer for more than twenty years. The SRAC project process responds directly and immediately to the needs of the farmer by involving the producer in the process and providing science-based solutions to critical needs within the industry.

The Regional Aquaculture Centers have been level-funded at about 50% of the authorized funding level amount for almost 20 years. Level funding has greatly diminished the capabilities of the Centers to address problems facing the industry, especially in these extremely critical times. I strongly urge Congress to fund the Regional Aquaculture Center program for the fully authorized \$7.5 million for the next fiscal year. Full funding is an excellent investment in an economic sector that creates jobs and fosters economic growth in rural areas of the U.S. and is essential for the U.S. aquaculture industry to remain competitive and to improve productivity and efficiency.

The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center has continued to adapt to the needs of producers over the years from work in the area of catfish pond effluents and the advancement of the channel x blue catfish hybrid, to ongoing projects today like intensive production systems and economic forecasting. I am particularly interested in two projects currently underway involving pond inventories, and economic forecasting and policy analysis models. These types of projects will help producers make better business decisions and be more profitable on the farm while providing the raw materials that keep thousands employed in the catfish industry.

Based on the above information, I respectfully request your sincere consideration to fully fund the Regional Aquaculture Centers, and the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center in particular, in the FY 2010 budget, in order for our industry to remain competitive and efficient.

Thank you for your time and support.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that I have not received Federal Grant monies.

**Curriculum Vitae**

James M. "Mitt" Walker, II  
PO Box 11000  
Montgomery, AL 36191  
(334) 613-4757  
mwalker@alfafarmers.org

**Education**

**1997**                    **B.S. in Environmental Analysis and Management**  
Troy University, Troy, AL

**Employment History**

**1998 – 1999**           **Environmental Materials Consultants, Inc.**  
Environmental Consulting Firm  
Montgomery, AL

**1999 – 2005**           **Alabama Department of Environmental Management**  
Permitting and Inspection of Concentrated Animal  
Feeding                    Operations  
Montgomery, AL

**2005 – Present**       **Alabama Farmers Federation**  
Director, Catfish and Meat Goat & Sheep Divisions  
Montgomery, AL

**Professional Organizations**

Member, Catfish Farmers of America

Member, American Sheep Industry Association

AL Aquaculture Coordinator, National Association of State Aquaculture  
Coordinators

**Testimony Submitted to  
U.S. House Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies**

April 14, 2009  
Concerning

**SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS**

Submitted by:  
Sebastian M. Belle, Executive Director  
Maine Aquaculture Association  
P.O. Box 148  
103 Water Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: It is an honor to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Sebastian Belle, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Aquaculture Association. The Maine Aquaculture Association is the oldest aquaculture association in the country. We represent domestic producers that grow oysters, mussels, salmon, cod, halibut, trout, and baitfish. Our membership also consists of a significant number of companies that provide goods and services to our farmers. I am requesting, on behalf of the Maine Aquaculture Association and its members, that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY 2010. The RAC program is an unusually effective federal program, and full funding is needed to retain this effectiveness.

The U.S. is the second largest market for seafood in the world. We currently import over 80% of the seafood consumed in this country, contributing over 9 billion dollars to our national trade deficit. The U.S. has some of the world's greatest fresh and salt water resources. Additionally, we have some of the world's best scientific expertise relevant to the field of aquaculture. The Regional Aquaculture Center system performs a vital role in assisting domestic aquaculturists. While traditional terrestrial agriculture has benefited from significant research and extension support over the years, aquaculture remains underserved. A case in point is the Regional Aquaculture Centers who have only been funded at half their authorized funding level since their inception. The Regional Aquaculture Centers have played a vital role in the development and maintenance of our domestic aquaculture industry. It is now time to significantly increase their funding so that they have the resources to help address our national needs.

With significant questions emerging regarding the safety of imported foods and large national trade deficits driven by domestic producers at competitive disadvantages, a significant investment in aquaculture research and extension is essential. The Regional Aquaculture Centers have the potential to address this national need and should be fully funded with a steady increase in funding over the next 10 years. This strategy would represent a prudent investment in our nation's future and will yield returns on investment far in excess of these funding levels. I urge you to support and fund the Regional Aquaculture Centers fully.

Thank you in advance for your consideration; if you need further information on this topic I am available at (207) 622-0136 or at the address above.



Sebastian Belle, Executive Director  
Maine Aquaculture Association

cc: Senator Susan M. Collins  
Senator Olympia J. Snowe  
Congressman Michael Michaud  
Congressman Thomas Allen

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal grants received by the Maine Aquaculture Association.

Calendar Year: 7/31/08 to 7/31/09

Cooperative Agreement Number (CA): 08-02 between the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the Maine Aquaculture Association

Agency: United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Project: Evaluating Restoration and Mitigation Aquatic Plant Species and Markets to Advance the Commercialization of the Industry

Amount: \$22,925

Grant Number: OMB Approved 0524-0039



**VITA for Sebastian Belle**  
**THE MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION**  
 P.O. Box 148, 103 Water Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Hallowell, ME 04347

Telephone (207) 622-0136 • Fax (207) 622-0576 • [www.MaineAquaculture.com](http://www.MaineAquaculture.com)

**2001-PRESENT Executive Director** – Maine Aquaculture Association, Hallowell, ME. USA. Representing the interests of the Maine commercial aquaculture industry in international, national, state and local levels.

**1998-2001 Policy Analyst** - Maine Department of Marine Resources, Augusta, ME USA. Responsible for the analysis, development and coordination of all department aquaculture policies. Advise the Commissioner of Marine Resources and Governors office on state and federal interagency negotiations and coordination.

**1996-1998 General Manager** - Atunas de Mazzaron, Puerto de Mazzaron, Murcia, SPAIN. Responsible for the planning, development and start up of a commercial tuna farm with gross revenues of 9 million dollars.

**1993-1996 Project Manager** - Bluefin Tuna Project, New England Aquarium, Boston, MA. USA. Responsible for the design and implementation of an applied research and development program to demonstrate the feasibility of commercial culture of Bluefin Tuna, Thunnus thynnus.

**1990-1993 Marine Operations Manager** - Connors Aquaculture, Eastport Facilities, Eastport, ME. USA. Responsible for operational management of 3 saltwater cage farms and all their associated support and processing infrastructure.

**1989-1990 Technical and Production Coordinator** - Ocean Products, Eastport, ME. USA. Responsible for technical analysis, production coordination and trouble shooting of all production units.

**1989-PRESENT Owner of ECONAQUA**, South Bristol, ME USA  
 An international consulting and investment firm providing technical services including project design, construction oversight, staff training, code of practice development and verification, financial due diligence, investment analysis, and risk control.

**1987-1989 Technical Consultant** - InterAqua, Oslo, Norway. Responsible for technical design and start up components of commercial aquaculture projects in 10 countries. Conducted investment and risk analysis for private investor groups and insurance companies.

**1986-1989 Production and Research Manager** - Svanoy Foundation, Svanoybukt, Norway. Responsible for daily operation and fiscal management of an aquaculture division of research and development foundation.

**1976-1986 First Mate/Alternate Captain F/V Billy Boy**, Shinnecock, NY Responsible for all deck operations and alternate skippering on a 65' offshore lobster boat.

Testimony Submitted to  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

April 6, 2009

Concerning: Support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers  
Written Statement by the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association  
1623 Whitesville Road  
Toms River, NJ 08755

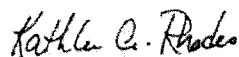
My name is Kathleen Rhodes and I represent the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association. We are writing in support of funding for USDA's Regional Aquaculture Centers at the fully authorized level of \$7.5 million for FY 2010.

The East Coast Shellfish Growers Association (ECSGA), a non-profit industry association, was established in 2001 to represent the more than 1,300 farms of all sizes that are growing shellfish from Maine to Florida. Our mission is specifically to promote and develop responsible commercial shellfish aquaculture. The shellfish aquaculture industry on the East Coast annual harvests clams and oysters valued at nearly \$80 million. In addition, some of our members culture bay scallops or mussels.

We believe that the East Coast shellfish industry has substantial potential for growth and that this growth can be accelerated with NRAC support. Support from NRAC is currently funding the development of Best Management Practices for our industry, but we have an urgent need for funding for basic and applied research to improve our hatchery and field operations. We specifically need advancements in disease control and genetic improvement of stocks. In addition, market research and development are becoming ever more important to this development industry.

The Regional Aquaculture Center program has an authorized annual funding limit of \$7.5 million, although the appropriated level of funding recently has been only at half that level. Divided among the five regional Centers, less than \$750,000 is available per Center. Aquaculture funding is an investment in growing our domestic food supply with positive results for our seafood trade deficit and for national security. We strongly encourage funding for the Regional Aquaculture Center program at the \$7.5 million appropriated level or higher.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Rhodes,  
Administrator

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal grants received by the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Inc.

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant Number</u>
2008	USDA	NRAC	\$123,219.21	2004-38500-14589
2008	NOAA	Fisheries	\$10,000.00	NA08NMF4720670

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**Education and Training**

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B.S., Biology (pre-marine option), University of Maine, Orono, ME, 1974.

"Introduction to CSS and XHTML" UMBC Training Centers, Baltimore, MD, 2007 "Avances en la Producción de Semilla de Ostión" Universidad de Antofagasta, Chile, 1994 "Uso del Sistema 7 de Macintosh" Imagem, Copiapó, Chile, 1991

"Spanish Immersion" Centro Bilingüe, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 1990

"Microalgal Production", Bigelow Marine Laboratory, Boothbay Harbor, ME, 1989 "Natural History of Long Island Sound" Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, 1987 "Irpeesa Training Program" Boy Scouts of America, Minuteman Council, MA, 1982 "Public Speaking" Arlington Adult Education, Arlington, MA, 1976

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Academic Liaison, The School for Field Studies, Salem, MA, Aug. 2001 - Jan. 2004

Program Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC, Nov. 1998 - Aug. 2001

Projects Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC, Nov. 1998 - Nov. 1998

Office Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC, Nov. 1997 - Apr. 1998

Resident Faculty / Lecturer, The School for Field Studies / Boston University, Boston, MA, Jan-Sept. 1997

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Research Associate, Edgerton Research Laboratory, New England Aquarium, Boston, MA, 1977 - 1982

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Counselor, Web of Life Outdoor Education Center, Sandwich, MA, 1977

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LIST OF WRITTEN TESTIMONIES FROM  
REGIONAL AQUA CULTURE CENTERS  
for submission to  
**U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
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April, 2009

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