

August 7, 2017

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley,

We write to thank you for your strong support for the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the two federal statistical agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We are especially grateful for the enacted FY17 levels for these two agencies and the FY18 levels provided by your subcommittee.

As you well know, these two agencies are critical to a fair and free market for agricultural products and to informing agricultural and food policy decisions in the public and private sector. We appreciate your leadership and the recognition of the importance of ERS and NASS through the appropriations of their FY17 and FY18 budgets.

We look forward to working with you to support these agencies going forward.

With sincere gratitude,

American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Dairy Science Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Statistical Association
Association of Public Data Users
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
FASS, Inc.
Global Cold Chain Alliance
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multi-state Initiative
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
National Barley Improvement Committee
North American Regional Science Council
Restaurant Services, Inc.
The Fertilizer Institute