

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Andy Harris.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
FDA, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge your opposition to any appropriations legislation that decreases public funding for agriculture research related to climate change.

Over the last several decades, publicly funded agricultural research has led to the advancement of countless innovative techniques and practices that have helped farmers across the country increase their profitability and sustainability. All farmers need access to high-quality research; and investing in research at the intersection of agriculture and climate change is critical to both short-term and long-term efforts to protect the viability of the agricultural industry. In addition, every dollar invested in publicly funded agricultural research generates \$20 in economic activity. USDA-funded research should seek to optimize the balance among production, nutrition security, environmental services, and socio-economic sustainability.

Unfortunately, the U.S. is underinvesting in public agricultural research, while spending in China, the European Union, and Brazil has continued to rise. Public investment in U.S. agricultural R&D has declined by one-third over the last two decades. Although private agricultural research spending is on the rise, the private sector prioritizes research with commercializable applications, often leaving environmentally and socially beneficial research like climate related agriculture not adequately funded.

Farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers are on the frontlines of the climate crisis — drought conditions are squeezing producers across the country, from Texas to California, Michigan and beyond; worsening floods across much of the South and Midwest have shrunk yields; heat stress is getting worse for farmworkers, and pests and disease are an evolving threat. While farmers' livelihoods and viability are threatened by the climate crisis, they also have an opportunity to scale up the use of unique tools, practices, and knowledge that allows them to adapt to and mitigate climate change on their farms and ranches. Producers across the country have demonstrated their commitment to being part of the climate solution and federal government support can catalyze action on the ground. Public agricultural research is the first step needed to put new tools and innovations in the hands of farmers to address growing economic and environmental challenges and build resiliency. Through development of regionally-relevant agricultural practices and new technologies, publicly funded agricultural research can simultaneously improve food security, revitalize rural communities, protect farmers and

ranchers' livelihoods, ensure the safety and dignity of farmworkers, and empower producers to mitigate climate change.

We urge the House Appropriations Committee to stand with farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers and reject any cuts to publicly funded agriculture research, especially funding for USDA's innovative climate change research.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Adamah

Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network

American Geophysical Union (AGU)

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Plant Biologists

American Sustainable Business Network

California Climate and Agriculture Network

Carbon180

Chicago Food Policy Action Council

CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture)

Climate Land Leaders

Crop Science Society of America

Dakota Rural Action

Earthjustice

Entomological Society of America

Farm Aid

Friends of the Mississippi River

Illinois stewardship Alliance

Ivory Silo Farm

Maine Farmland Trust

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Michigan Food and Farming Systems

National Association of Plant Breeders

National Center for Appropriate Technology

National Co+op Grocers

National Organic Coalition

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

National Young Farmers Coalition

Natural Resources Defense Council

NESAWG

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticide

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network

Oregon Tilth

Organic Farming Research Foundation

Organic Seed Alliance

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture

Pesticide Action Network North America

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Rancocas Creek Farm

River Stoan Certified Organic Farm

Soil Science Society of America

Spark Climate

Sprout Nola

Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council

The Breakthrough Institute

Union of Concerned Scientists

Virginia Association for Biological Farming

Wild Farm Alliance