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June 4, 2013

The Honorable Kay R. Hagan
Suite SD-521, Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan,

We are writing to thank you for leading the recently introduced Senate Resolution (S.Res.150) designating 2013 as the International Year of Statistics. The 18,000 members of the American Statistical Association appreciate your support, because the need for statistical skills in our data-rich society has never been greater.

Our state—and the Triangle area, in particular—is at the forefront of academic research, education, government activities, and extraordinary business growth that are all closely tied to the field of statistics. Montserrat Fuentes, head of the department of statistics at North Carolina State University, explained this distinction in a recent *Raleigh News & Observer* [op-ed](#) writing:

“The Triangle area is a literal hotbed of statisticians, with leading departments of statistics and biostatistics at N.C. State, UNC Chapel Hill, and Duke University; government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; and companies like SAS, GlaxoSmithKline, and Quintiles.”

Your ongoing support for statistical science will further establish the Triangle as the “Silicon Valley of Statistics.”

Sincerely,

Marie Davidian
2013 President, American Statistical Association
William Neal Reynolds Professor of Statistics
North Carolina State University

Robert N. Rodriguez
2012 President, American Statistical Association
Sr. Director, Statistical Research & Development
SAS Institute Inc.