

May 7, 2018

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

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee 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), two agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We are especially grateful for the enacted FY18 levels for these two agencies and the FY18 levels provided the FY 2018 Omnibus.

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. ERS also undertakes critical economic research that can inform policy at the federal level. These two agencies serve as the world's premier source of agricultural statistics, economic research and information. Their global preeminence mirrors the strength of the United States agricultural and food sector.

We appreciate your leadership and the recognition of the importance of ERS and NASS through the appropriations process.

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

With sincere gratitude,

The undersigned members of the Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis

American Dairy Science Association
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Farmland Trust
American Malting Barley Association
American Statistical Association
Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Professional Associations on Federal
Statistics
Decision Demographics
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Global Cold Chain Alliance

Global Harvest Initiative
Iowa State University, Department of Economics
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals - Multistate
Initiative
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural
Research
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National WIC Association
Restaurant Services, Inc
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder
Committee
World Perspectives, Inc.