



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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September 17, 2018

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Norton,

I write as president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) to express gratitude for your recent call for a joint hearing to examine the United States Department of Agriculture's recent proposal to relocate the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture and to realign ERS under the Office of the Chief Economist.

The ASA—the largest association of statisticians in the world, with more than 19,000 members—shares your concern that this proposal would be detrimental to evidence-based policymaking in the Department of Agriculture and—more broadly—for food, agriculture, and our rural economy.

On behalf of the ASA, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of evidence-based agricultural policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lisa LaVange'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa LaVange, Ph.D.