

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

900 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE Suite 205

Washington, D.C. 20002

[sciencepolicy@agronomy.org](mailto:sciencepolicy@agronomy.org)

September 24, 2010

The Honorable Tim Holden  
Chairman  
Conservation, Credit, Energy,  
& Research Subcommittee  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
Ranking Member  
Conservation, Credit, Energy,  
& Research Subcommittee  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Holden & Ranking Member Goodlatte:

The Agriculture Food & Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition, a group of scientific societies and science advocacy organizations promoting awareness, appreciation, and funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grants program, requests a hearing to review the progress of the AFRI program, along with other USDA competitive research programs, under Title VII of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill).

Under the auspices of USDA's National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA), AFRI grants fund research, education, and extension and integrated initiatives addressing issues of regional and national importance to the safety, sustainability, and quality of American agriculture. As USDA's premier extramural research program, AFRI discoveries sustain and improve many facets of agriculture including human nutrition, rural entrepreneurship, food safety, renewable energy production and environmental stewardship.

As AFRI's popularity grows among researchers in government, academia, and private industry, the AFRI Coalition believes a hearing would enhance this program's effectiveness, and assess possible adjustments in the next farm bill to ensure its continued success. A performance review ensures that American taxpayers continue to benefit from dividends generated by all NIFA research programs.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to hearing from you..

Sincerely,

American Dairy Science Association  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science

American Society of Plant Biologists  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics  
Crop Science Society of America  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Institute of Food Technologists  
Iowa State University  
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Poultry Science Association  
Society of Nematologists  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Weed Science Society  
The Rodale Institute  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Society of Weed Science