



December 5, 2008

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Senate
129 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development and
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Senate
129 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kohl and Bennett:

On behalf of NASULGC, A Public University Association, which represents 216 public research universities, land-grant institutions and state university systems, I write to respectfully request your strong support in the FY2009 appropriations conference negotiations for agencies and programs of great importance not only to public universities but to the nation. Outlined below are our specific requests for programs in your bill.

NASULGC supports the full range of research, teaching, and outreach programs funded by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Maintaining robust agriculture research is fundamental to the health of the nation. Our universities are an essential part of agriculture research conducted in the United States.

We specifically ask that Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) be funded at \$300 million in FY2009. In addition, we also ask that the Hatch Act be funded at \$215 million, Evans-Allen be funded at \$48.9 million, and McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program be funded at \$30 million. Furthermore, we request that the National Research Initiative be funded at \$256 million.

Further, we request \$3 million for the International Science and Education (ISE) competitive grants program, the only internationally focused competitive grants program administered by CSREES in USDA. ISE includes a global agenda for sustainable agriculture, food, natural resources, rural development and related science programs.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson
President