September 5, 2014—By E-mail

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC  20250

RE:  Appreciation for USDA Leadership Actions to Create FFAR and Appoint Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The undersigned would like to express their sincere appreciation and thanks to you for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) expeditious leadership actions to create the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR) and appoint the 15-member, founding Board of Directors, as authorized by Congress in the 2014 Agricultural Act.

FFAR will complement USDA’s portfolio of intramural and extramural research, Extension and education programs that help solve current and future challenges facing agriculture, develop new opportunities for American agriculture, and bring innovative technology from the laboratory to the marketplace.

With an ever expanding global population and increasing demands for nutritious food and other agricultural products, increased investments in food and agricultural research, Extension and education are essential to maintaining our nation’s food, economic and national security.

FFAR reflects the need for innovative solutions to increase funding and leverage private sector investments in research. FFAR will generate new sources of funding for food and agricultural research and provide a structure for new public/private partnerships and investments. FFAR will help provide funding for new concepts and ideas; high-risk, high-reward research; research to address knowledge gaps; translational research; and emerging research needs.

Thank you again for your continuing leadership on food and agricultural research, Extension and education.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases (AAMD)
American Dairy Science Association (ADSA)
American Feed Industry Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Soybean Association
American Statistical Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Botanical Society of America
California Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado State University, College of Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Dale Buchanan, Dean and Director Emeritus, University of Georgia
Entomological Society of America
Fats and Proteins Research Foundation
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Idaho Wheat Commission
Institute of Food Technologists
Michigan State University
Minnesota Crop Improvement Assn.
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (MDA) Multistate Initiative
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Cotton Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Renderers Association
National Turfgrass Federation, Inc.
National Watermelon Association
National Corn Growers Association
North American Millers Association
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeast Pasture Consortium
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Poultry Science Association
Professional Landcare Network (PLANET)
Purdue University College of Agriculture
Riley Memorial Foundation
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Weed Science Society
Texas AgriLife
The Lawn Institute
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Nebraska
US Golf Association
USA Rice Federation
Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science

CC: Honorable Catherine Woteki
    Honorable Sonny Ramaswamy
    Honorable Debbie Stabenow
    Honorable Thad Cochran
    Honorable Frank Lucas
    Honorable Collin Peterson
    Honorable Mark Pryor
    Honorable Roy Blunt
    Honorable Robert Aderholt
    Honorable Sam Farr