

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 26, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

We write in strong support of maintaining important agriculture research efforts carried out under the Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service (CSREES) and the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) in the Pacific Northwest.

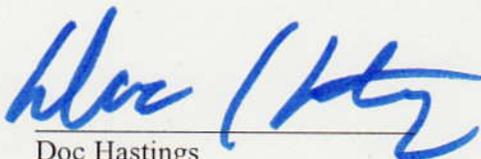
As you know, federal agriculture research is essential to the competitiveness of the American farmer and rancher. Every year, groundbreaking research conducted at ARS sites and land-grant colleges and universities around the country helps our agricultural producers to enhance their productivity, reduce pest and disease threats, and increase marketing opportunities. We are fortunate to represent four ARS sites – Prosser, Pullman, Wenatchee, and Yakima – three of which are co-located with Washington State University (WSU) research facilities.

We regret that the Senate was unable to pass its version of the Agriculture Appropriations bill last year. Although we understand the necessity to rely upon a continuing resolution to fund most of the federal agencies through the end of Fiscal Year 2007, we are concerned about the uncertainty the situation creates for critical agriculture research programs that had previously been funded by the Congress. We do not want to see these important research programs defunded and dismantled in FY 2007 only to be reconstituted – at a much greater cost – in FY 2008.

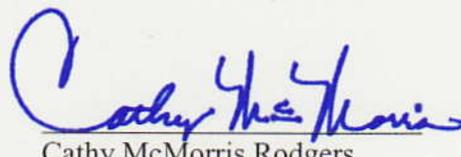
Therefore, we respectfully request that you use your discretion as the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain the ongoing agriculture research efforts under the ARS and CSREES through the balance of FY 2007. In particular, we ask that you maintain the existing ARS research programs underway at the Prosser, Pullman, Wenatchee, and Yakima stations, as well as the CSREES special grants that fund WSU research at these sites.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We appreciate your leadership on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress