



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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September 17, 2018

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop Jr.  
Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related  
Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Bishop and Members DeLauro, Pingree, and Pocan,

I write as president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) to express gratitude for your recent letter to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue expressing concern and requesting additional information regarding the Department of Agriculture's proposed relocation of the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the realignment of ERS under the Office of the Chief Economist.

The ASA—the largest association of statisticians in the world, with more than 19,000 members—is concerned 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,

Lisa LaVange, Ph.D.