August 9, 2017

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley,

We write to thank you for your strong support for the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the two federal statistical agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We are especially grateful for the enacted FY17 levels for these two agencies and the FY18 levels provided by your subcommittee.

As you well know, these two agencies are critical to a fair and free market for agricultural products and to informing agricultural and food policy decisions in the public and private sector. We appreciate your leadership and the recognition of the importance of ERS and NASS through the appropriations of their FY17 and FY18 budgets.

We look forward to working with you to support these agencies going forward.

With sincere gratitude,

Agricultural Retailers Association American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases American Dairy Science Association American Malting Barley Association American Society of Agronomy American Society of Farm Managers and Rural **Appraisers** American Statistical Association Association for University Business and **Economic Research** Association of Public Data Users **Brewers Association** Council of Professional Associations on Federal **Statistics** Crop Science Society of America FASS, Inc.

Global Cold Chain Alliance International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multi-state Initiative National Association of State Departments of Agriculture National Association for the Advancement of **Animal Science National Barley Growers Association** National Barley Improvement Committee National Farmers Union North American Regional Science Council Restaurant Services, Inc. Soil Science Society of America The Fertilizer Institute