



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943

(703) 684-1221 ■ www.amstat.org ■ asainfo@amstat.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/AmstatNews Twitter www.twitter.com/AmstatNews

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Bishop,

As President of the American Statistical Association with its 19,000 members, I write to thank you for your strong support for the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the FY18 omnibus funding bill. As you know, these agencies—as the two federal statistical agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture—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.

The level for NASS is especially critical, with FY18 being the peak year of the quinquennial census of agriculture. The final FY18 level you committee provided allows NASS to execute the census while maintaining its agricultural estimates programs. For ERS, we especially appreciate the rejection of the Administration's proposed 12% cut for FY18. The ERS budget, accounting for the \$7.7 million adjustment to its budget in FY15, is funded below its FY09-FY11 levels, resulting in an approximately 18% cut in its purchasing power. In light of these challenges, your rejection of a funding cut is particularly helpful.

With sincere gratitude,

Lisa LaVange, Ph.D.