



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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September 17, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

I write as president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) to express gratitude for your recent letter to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lisa LaVange'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa LaVange, Ph.D.