Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Acting Ranking Member Harris:

As you make appropriations decisions for fiscal year 2023, I respectfully urge you to continue to provide strong support for the Cooperative Extension System (CES).

As you know, the CES is a network of state, tribal, and local educators that delivers timely, practical information to producers, small business owners, and other members of the agricultural community throughout the country. More than one million people benefit from Extension education, which covers such diverse topics as technology transfer and technical assistance, behavioral health, and, most recently, COVID-19 response.

Even more importantly, Extension programs provide out-of-the-classroom education for millions of young people. A four-year college degree spent *solely* in the lecture hall cannot – and should not – be the goal we expect for the nation's youth. Instead, the next generation should be encouraged "to learn by doing," to borrow the motto of 4-H, the CES's most famous program. 4-H currently serves almost six million young people, and it is playing a major role in fostering the next generation of leaders in our agricultural and rural communities.

We must ensure Extension programs have the resources they need to carry out their mission. To that end, I again request full support for the CES activities authorized by Sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please know that my staff is willing to assist your efforts in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress