



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT —
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

September 27, 2021

The Honorable David Scott
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), thank you for supporting \$7.75 billion for critical agricultural investments in the House Agriculture Committee's Build Back Better Reconciliation Plan, approved on September 13. UC greatly appreciates your leadership and continued support for critical agricultural research and infrastructure investments.

UC is the largest public research university system in the world, and as the designated land-grant university in California, it has advanced food and agricultural research for more than a century. UC is committed to carrying out its research, education, and public service mission through our campuses, research laboratories, and through the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), which are integral components supporting the \$50 billion agricultural industry in California.

UC ANR connects the power of UC research in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition and youth development with local communities to improve the lives of all Californians. Our statewide network of UC Cooperative Extension academics connect with research faculty to support healthy communities with science-based strategies and technologies. These efforts help to safeguard healthy and affordable food, provide clean drinking water, support the economic vitality of our state, protect natural resources, prevent wildfires, develop future leaders through 4-H, deliver culturally relevant materials and workshops, and develop proactive policies to increase diversity and inclusiveness.

Considering the important role UC ANR serves in California and the nation, we are very pleased to see \$3.65 billion provided to address agriculture research infrastructure needs, including \$2.7 billion in funding for FY 2022, to support grants under the Research Facilities Act, for construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agriculture research facilities. This funding is critical to addressing aging facilities throughout California. For example, our nine UC Research and Extension Centers (RECs) are located in remote, rural areas to provide research and education for agricultural commodities in their respect climate regions. Systemwide infrastructure improvements are needed to allow for precision agriculture, remote sensing on long-term climate parameters, and geographical information systems. Additionally, wireless high-speed internet is needed at all RECs to allow for large data collection and storage from field sites and would also support workshops conducted remotely in both field and classroom locations.

The University is pleased that the Reconciliation Plan provides significant investments in funding for research and extension programs within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), including the Agriculture Food and Research Initiative (AFRI); the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI); capacity funds including under the Smith-Lever Act; the Crop Protection Pest Management program; Urban Agriculture programs; the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA) initiative; biomass and climate research, and for other agriculture research programs. Additionally, we are pleased to see support for child nutrition programs as well as wildfire research, mitigation, and adaptation programs, included in the reconciliation legislation.

Thank you again for supporting these critical agricultural provisions and for your efforts to include these provisions in the Committee's Reconciliation Plan. UC strongly supports the research funding levels allocated in the Committee's Reconciliation Plan and urges Congress to maintain these provisions in the final package. Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Glenda Humiston, Ph.D.

Vice President

Agriculture and Natural Resources

cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

California Members of the House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate

The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senate