March 20, 2015

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr:

I am writing to respectfully request a Fiscal Year 2017 appropriation of $5 million to fund the competitive Capacity-Building Grants for Non-Land Grant College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (NLGCA) program authorized in the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills.

The Non-Land Grant institutions have made significant contributions to agricultural and natural resource research and education. These institutions enroll 35 percent of the undergraduate students majoring in agricultural and natural resource programs in the United States.

NLGCA institutions are well-positioned to be successful in expanding opportunities for research and education grants through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) budget. Funding for this authorized program positions these institutions to:

• Provide research experiences for undergraduates in agriculture, food and renewable resources and strengthen development of a highly-skilled workforce for the agriculture, food and natural resources producers and industries;
• Conduct responsive research that addresses issues and challenges of our agriculture, food, fiber, fuel and natural resources producers and industries;
• Enhance competitiveness of predominantly undergraduate institutions for research and other opportunities funded through the NIFA; and
• Conduct outreach educational programs that serve rural and urban stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to include $5 million in the Fiscal Year 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. I look forward to working with you as the appropriations process gets underway.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind
Member of Congress