

HARRY REID
NEVADA

MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

February 26, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

Congress recently passed an enhanced Continuing Resolution that included funding for the FY2007 Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, this late action on FY2007 funding for most federal departments and agencies was the direct result of the 109th Congress' failure to complete nine of the eleven appropriations bills.

Given we are nearly half way through the fiscal year before the enactment of final funding levels, most federal departments and agencies face significant challenges and decisions about how to use the funds they were provided. I encourage you to use the bill reported out of the Republican-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee during the 109th Congress as guidance when you determine how to allocate your department's funds in Fiscal Year 2007.

I strongly support the priorities included in this bill. I believe they are essential to the nation and to my home state of Nevada. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

My best wishes to you.

Sincerely,


HARRY REID
United States Senator



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 3 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-7020

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your recent letter highlighting your priorities for projects conducted by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). We appreciate your interest in USDA programs.

The recently enacted Continuing Resolution (Public Law 110-5) provides funding for USDA activities for the remainder of fiscal year 2007. However, funding for a number of specific projects and budget line items was not provided, and in some cases, funding has been shifted among line items in the budget. We are currently reviewing the effect of these funding levels and other provisions of the Continuing Resolution with regard to a number of USDA projects and activities.

We will give your comments and recommendations every consideration as we allocate funds. I assure you that funding allocations at USDA will be those authorized by statute, and decisions we make about funding will be merit based and transparent.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Mike Johanns
Secretary