

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2013

Honorable Mark Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Dirksen Building, 184
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Dirksen Building, 184
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Pryor and Ranking Member Blunt:

I write to express my support for passage of an appropriation bill for the agencies within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 after the current continuing resolution expires on March 27, 2013. As you know, because continuing resolutions are temporary measures carrying over previous year funding without new start, transfer and reprogramming authority, they create significant uncertainty and disruption in federal agencies' ability to execute taxpayer dollars in the best interest of the nation.

Additionally, uncertainty associated with temporary continuing resolutions prevents strategic, long-term planning and budgeting. Passing annual appropriations bills are necessary to ensure Congress exercises its Constitutional responsibilities to appropriately allocate taxpayer funds and provide federal agencies with the ability to create smart, effective budgets extending into future fiscal years.

As you work on providing funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 for programs in your subcommittee jurisdiction, I respectfully request support for the programs listed below. The funding requested for the national programs is to be spent at the agencies' discretion within the existing budget line and is not intended for any specific business, state, community or other entity.

1. Title: Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account

Program Description: The water and waste disposal program is authorized by sections 306, 306A, 309A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq., as amended). This program makes loans for water and waste development costs. Development loans are made to associations,

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including corporations operating on a nonprofit basis, municipalities and similar organizations, generally designated as public or quasi-public agencies that propose projects for the development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of domestic water or the collection, treatment, or disposal of waste in rural areas.

Fiscal Year 2013 President's Budget Request: \$495.7 million

Additional Amount Requested: +\$26.8 million as provided in S. 2375, the Senate version of the bill to make appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs.

Support Senate Report Language (112-163) to accompany S. 2375: The Committee recommends \$66,500,000 for water and waste disposal systems grants for Native Americans, including Native Alaskans, the Colonias, and residents of Hawaiian Home Lands. The Committee recognizes the special needs and problems for delivery of basic services to these populations.

Recipient: Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Services, Water and Waste Disposal Program

2. **Title:** Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Fiscal Year 2013 President's Budget Request: \$0

Additional Amount Requested: +\$1.996 million as provided in S. 2375, the Senate version of the bill to make appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs.

Rationale: The *Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008* authorized the Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers Program. However this program did not receive funding in the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2013.

Recipient: Department of Agriculture, Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Thank your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Lindsay Kavanaugh, at (202) 224-3004 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator