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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Mike Johanns  
Secretary of Agriculture

**FROM:** Sandra S. Ristow, Associate Director  
Ristow@wsu.edu

**DATE:** November 3, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ristow'.

The Federal Government should seek ways to ensure the long-term success of U.S. Agriculture.

One of the ways to ensure this success is to support the research and development activities of our Land-Grant universities so that they stay on the cutting edge of science. Producers and the entire agricultural economy must continue to enjoy the benefits of the most advanced techniques, plant varieties, plant protection technologies, production techniques, new fuels, and bioproducts stemming from research. Land-Grant universities are our nation's primary sites for conducting the necessary research and development. In order to ensure this desirable outcome, we suggest that the authority for the USDA-NRI in the Farm Bill be doubled to at least \$1 billion annually.

Second, authority for funding the joint USDA-DOE biomass program should be increased, particularly now that that the recently passed Energy Bill authorizes the program at \$200 million.

Finally, we urge that Hatch and other Formula Funds that create the federal and state partnerships in agricultural research and development be continued and the funding be enhanced during the period of the next Farm Bill.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARIAT, USDA

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