



Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

4/16/2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representative
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing on behalf of Farm Bureau to add our voice to those who are strongly supporting the U of I's 2026 project funding request, which seeks \$4,000,000 from the USDA's Buildings and Facilities account to build a flexible manure research system at its Rupert CAFE site.

This facility will help the University adopt the latest technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote responsible environmental and production policies. Their proposed flexible manure handling system is a major component of their research and efforts to identify best practices for efficient water use, reduced air emissions, and improved soil health in the Magic Valley.

Progress in all these key areas can only benefit Idaho's agricultural sector, which is a major factor in our state's overall economy. As you no doubt know, agriculture is responsible for one in every eight Idaho jobs and accounts for over \$30 billion in annual sales.

You have been a stalwart supporter of Idaho's dairy and agricultural industry, and we know you will support this latest funding request from the University of Idaho. We are pleased to express our strong support for this project because we know it will provide innovative leadership in addressing environmental concerns and advancing best agricultural practices, which will benefit our members and the agricultural industry.

Thank you for your service to our great state and thank you for supporting this funding request from the University of Idaho.

Sincerely,

Bryan Searle President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

District 27
Cassia, Minidoka,
Oneida Counties



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 83720
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(208) 332-1300
kanthon@senate.idaho.gov

Idaho State Senate
SENATOR KELLY ARTHUR ANTHON
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representative
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

I'm writing to urge your continued support for the University of Idaho's funding request for the fiscal year 2026 community project. As you know, the University is seeking \$4,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Buildings and Facilities account to build a flexible manure handling system at the Rupert-based Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE) for testing and evaluating manure treatment and nutrient separation technologies.

Agriculture is vital for Idaho's economy, providing jobs and value-added products. The dairy sector, in particular, makes up 60% of agricultural cash receipts. To address production concerns and integrate modern technologies, the University of Idaho is establishing the nation's largest research dairy, Idaho CAFE. The proposed flexible manure handling system at CAFE, in collaboration with the Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Team, promises significant advancements in efficient water use, reduced air emissions, and enhanced soil health in the heart of Idaho's dairy industry, the Magic Valley.

Your unwavering advocacy for Idaho's dairy industry has been game-changing, and we believe your continued support for this funding request will have a lasting impact on the success of the University of Idaho's groundbreaking initiatives and the national dairy industry generally. This investment is not just in agriculture; it's an investment in local community prosperity and the economic well-being of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Anthon", written over a horizontal line.

Sen. Kelly Arthur Anthon
President Pro Tempore
Idaho State Senate



SCOTT BEDKE

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representatives
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing to add my voice to those who are strongly supporting the U of I's 2026 project funding request, which seeks \$4,000,000 from the USDA's Buildings and Facilities account to build a flexible manure handling system at its Rupert CAFE site.

This facility will help the University adopt the latest technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote responsible environmental policies. Their proposed flexible manure handling system is a major component of their efforts to identify best practices for efficient water use, reduced air emissions, and improved soil health in the Magic Valley.

Progress in all these key areas can only benefit Idaho's agricultural sector, which is a major factor in our state's overall economy. As you no doubt know, agriculture is responsible for one in every eight Idaho jobs and accounts for over \$30 billion in annual sales.

You have been a stalwart supporter of Idaho's dairy industry and I know you will support this latest funding request from the University of Idaho. I am pleased to express my strong support for this project because I know it will provide innovative leadership in addressing environmental concerns and advancing best agricultural practices.

Thank you for your service to our great state and thank you for supporting this funding request from the University of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Bedke".

Scott Bedke
Lieutenant Governor



April 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representative
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing on behalf of the Idaho Dairy Association to add our voice to those who are strongly supporting the U of I's 2026 project funding request, which seeks \$4,000,000 from the USDA's Buildings and Facilities account to build a flexible manure research system at its Rupert CAFE site.

This facility will help the University be a research and testing ground for new and emerging manure handling technologies and practices so they can be commercialized for use in Idaho's dairy industry. Their proposed flexible manure handling system is a major component of their research and efforts to identify best practices for efficient water use, reduced air emissions, and improved soil health in the Magic Valley.

Progress in all these key areas can only benefit Idaho's agricultural sector, which is a major factor in our state's overall economy. As you no doubt know, agriculture is responsible for one in every eight Idaho jobs and accounts for over \$30 billion in annual sales. Of that, the dairy industry accounts for a third of Idaho's agricultural sector, supporting more than 33,000 jobs.

You have been a stalwart supporter of Idaho's dairy industry, and I know you will support this latest funding request from the University of Idaho. We are pleased to support this project because we know it will provide innovative leadership in addressing environmental concerns and advancing best agricultural practices, which will benefit our members and the dairy and agricultural industry.

Thank you for your friendship, and service to our great state and thank you for supporting this funding request from the University of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Naerebout", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Naerebout
Chief Executive Officer
Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc.

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Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
208.736.1953
www.idahodairymens.org