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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
CHAIRMAN

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES.

March 13, 2025

Chairman Tom Cole
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Potato Breeding Facilities in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Idaho Aberdeen Research and Education (R&E) Center, located at 1693 2700 West Rd, Aberdeen, ID 83210. The funding would be used to update federally owned storage and greenhouse facilities at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center to ensure it can continue conducting the necessary research needed by the potato industry. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the U of I Aberdeen Research and Extension (R&E) Center is home to several potato research projects investigating potato related diseases and disease management techniques; potato pests; potato cropping systems and weed biology, control and herbicide resistance; and potato variety development. The center plays a crucial role developing potato varieties that are higher yielding, disease resistant, and have better end-use qualities. More than 90% of Idaho's potatoes and 60% of all potatoes grown in the United States can be traced back to the U of I Seed Potato Germplasm program. The potato industry contributes approximately \$8.5 billion to Idaho's economy. Despite the importance of this R&E Center, U of I is using facilities that were built in the 1960s to research and develop the new varieties needed by industry. The university is requesting support for updates to federally owned storage and greenhouse facilities at the Aberdeen R&E Center to ensure it can continue supporting Idaho's potato industry.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 7 U.S. Code section 2250.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson" followed by the initials "M.C." in a smaller font.

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress