

**MIKE SIMPSON**

SECOND DISTRICT, IDAHO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2084 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5531  
FAX: (202) 225-8216

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
802 WEST BANNOCK STREET, SUITE 600  
BOISE, ID 83702  
(208) 334-1953  
FAX: (208) 334-9533  
simpson.house.gov



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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$787,000 of funding for the Idaho Grain & Ag Center project in the FY22 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the Idaho Grain Producers Association and the project is located at 821 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702.

The funding is designated for a conference room, shared workspace, and technology in a new building project, the Idaho Grain & Ag Center at 821 W. State Street. An updated Idaho Grain & Ag Center is an exciting concept that would provide critical services to Idaho's agricultural industry, while offering innovative ways to engage with growers around the state. Entirely focused on Idaho agriculture, the building project would include a hub for research collaboration, a promotional component, sufficient meeting space to bring large groups together, and technology to connect with growers around the state and the nation. The Idaho Grain & Ag Center would not only link Idaho's rural and urban communities, but also serve as a bridge to the future of Idaho agriculture. An updated Idaho Grain & Ag Center, which will sit adjacent to the Idaho Statehouse, will solidify the importance of agriculture to the state, be a model of innovative public-private partnerships, and serve all rural Idaho.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. Idaho has nearly 25,000 farms and ranches which produce more than 185 different commodities, sustaining the cultural and economic fabric of rural Idahoans. Agriculture remains a fundamentally important part of Idaho's economy, communities, and way of life. Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation – the recent influx of people in our state further supports the need for community resources and education around the cornerstone industries of agriculture and sustainable food production in our state. Growth in agricultural innovation is not only paramount to the vibrancy of rural Idaho, but to the global human and environmental condition. Never in history has our society been faced with so many systemic challenges from dependence on finite natural resources to climate change. Agriculture is a part of the solution to meeting these challenges. The Idaho Grain & Ag Innovation Center will provide a space to bring agriculture together and serve as an incubator for ag innovation that can create positive change and opportunity for rural Idaho and our nation alike.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Simpson" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Simpson  
April 20, 2021