

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



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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 \$7,750,000 of funding for U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) ARS Infrastructure Improvement project in the FY22 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The project sponsor for this project is USSES and the project is located at 19 office loop, Dubois, ID 83423.

The funding is designated to modernize a century-old critical research facility, the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES), and expansion of research-building capacity. The USSES is a USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) unit near Dubois, Idaho. It was established in 1916 with most housing quarters, office, and laboratory buildings (51) completed between 1918 and 1940. The USSES is an all-inclusive municipality with complete potable water, utility, and street/walkway infrastructures. Most buildings are considered "historic."

A new water well is required to replace a well that is failing. New waterlines are needed to replace degrading pipes and mitigate potential water loss. New windows and accompanying insulation are needed in buildings to enhance energy efficiency. New asphalt and some engineering are required to limit further road loss and damage, and new drainage ways are necessary for managing runoff. The data/telecommunications network needs to be extended to all essential buildings and modernized in certain buildings to conform to modern tech codes. Repair of historic infrastructure is needed to sustain the important USSES heritage for Idaho citizens. Scientific laboratories are barely sufficient to meet current research needs and inadequate to accommodate proposed research. A new laboratory building is needed to conduct ecology, climate, wildlife, and sheep genomics and disease work.

Existing infrastructural update:

- o municipal water system repair (\$1,000,000)
- o roadway/drainage repair (\$1,000,000)
- o energy-efficiency modernization (\$500,000)
- o historical preservation and quarters renovation (\$500,000)
- o telecommunication/data service retrofit (\$250,000)

New scientific infrastructural development:

- o Scientific laboratory construction (\$4,500,000)

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station is an asset for grazing lands and sheep industry genetic research, and the repository of over five decades of sage grouse research. The century-old infrastructure is a limiting factor for the USSES to effectively accomplish its research agenda.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Simpson
April 20, 2021