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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4313

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The Honorable Jaye Hamby
Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Director Hamby,

I am writing to express my support for West Texas A&M University's (WTs) application through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Research Facilities Act Program (RFAP), which would be used to construct the Center for Beef Cattle Research and Innovation at WT to facilitate applied research, workforce development, and industry collaboration across the High Plains region.

The Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences at WT has established itself as a nationally recognized leader in beef cattle research. With approximately 25 percent of the nation's fed cattle being produced within 150 miles of campus and the Texas Panhandle being the third-largest milk-producing region in the United States, West Texas A&M is uniquely positioned to address the most pressing challenges facing the beef and dairy industries. However, current university facilities cannot replicate the stocking densities, population dynamics, or operational characteristics of commercial feedyards. If funded, the proposed project will enable WT to develop science-based approaches to increase beef production efficiency and advance feedlot management practices, ultimately increasing domestic cattle production. By leveraging the NIFA RFAP, WT will be able to continue conducting groundbreaking, critical research that helps to maintain and advance the cattle industry throughout the region.

I respectfully urge you to give full and fair consideration to this important proposal, and I thank you for your dedication to the future of our nation's agricultural industry. The point of contact for my office is my Director of Operations and Legislative Assistant, Tanner Myers, who can be reached at Tanner.Myers@mail.house.gov. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress