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ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

May 14, 2014

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

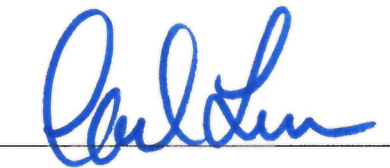
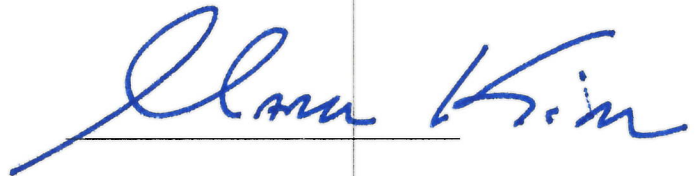
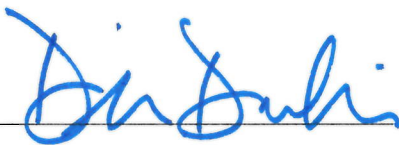
We write on behalf of the National Coalition for Producer Education's application in response to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) call for proposals for Section 1614 "Web-Based Decision Aids." The proposal is being led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with Michigan State University providing leadership in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) buy-up component.

For over a decade, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – with contributors from other respected agricultural focused universities - has been a respected leader in providing timely and valuable farm management information to agricultural decision-makers across the country through its *farmdoc* platform. *Farmdoc*'s content is known for its relevance, accessibility and wide-ranging applications.

The National Coalition for Producer Education, which is comprised of experienced universities and organizations that together represent a variety of geographic regions and commodity crops, dairy, and specialty crops, will utilize and expand upon *farmdoc*'s successful features. Each partner in the Coalition offers key strengths and expertise that will enhance the Coalition's training, outreach, analysis and education capabilities.

We believe the National Coalition for Producer Education can generate useful tools for producer groups, individual producers, and extension, and we urge your full consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CC: Juan Garcia, Administrator, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture