

Mr. Michael L. Sullivan
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December 14, 2009

The Honorable Adrian Smith
United States Congress
503 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

As a wheat producer and member of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association (NWGA), I am writing to thank you for your work on behalf of Nebraska and especially agriculture. I am asking your support for the Bioengineering Wheat for a Global Market earmark.

As you know, the wheat industry is an extremely important part of the Nebraska agricultural economy especially in areas of the state such as the location of my family farm in south central Nebraska that have limited rainfall or access to irrigation. Given the water issues facing Nebraska, wheat could play an even larger role in the future agricultural economy of our state. One of the challenges that has led to a decline in wheat acres is the rapid advances other crops, particularly corn and soybeans have made due to genetic engineering. You probably know that other states such as Kansas are attempting take the lead in wheat genetics. I am asking for your support to make sure Nebraska has a leading role in developing, testing and educating farmers how to deploy these new traits in wheat.

The UNL-IANR, with support from the Nebraska Wheat Board and a private donor, have begun an aggressive plan for integrating biotechnology into modern wheat breeding to help Nebraska and U.S. wheat growers remain competitive in the global wheat production and utilization market. Although significant resources have been allocated toward wheat genomics, minimal effort has been put forth in both the public and private sector to translate this knowledge into novel input and output traits. I believe UNL-IANR is positioned well to evaluate transgenes in wheat as a means to deliver yield enhancement and grain quality traits.

The UNL-IANR has identified a donor interested in this project. The donor is interested in the donation of a significant amount of land, both rain-fed and irrigated in the targeted region. I feel that the combination of IANR, the Nebraska wheat industry, the Federal Government and this private donor would make ideal partners in forging a new era in wheat productivity in Nebraska and the world.

Once again, thank you for the vital work you do on behalf Nebraska's citizens and agricultural research.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Sullivan