

The logo for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). It consists of the letters "FASEB" in a white, serif font, centered within a dark blue rectangular box. The box has a thin gold border.

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

— Quality Life Through Research —

Member Societies

The American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology
American Society for Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Investigative
Pathology
American Society for Nutrition
The American Association of
Immunologists
American Association of Anatomists
The Protein Society
Society for Developmental Biology
American Peptide Society
Association of Biomolecular Resource
Facilities
The American Society for Bone and
Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical
Investigation
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Teratology Society
The Endocrine Society
The American Society of Human
Genetics
Society for Gynecologic Investigation
Environmental Mutagen Society
International Society for
Computational Biology
American College of Sports Medicine

President

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March 5, 2007

Senator Tom Harkin
Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

I am writing to thank you, on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), for your leadership in holding a hearing on the critical issue of agricultural research. FASEB is a coalition of 21 scientific societies, representing more than 84,000 biomedical researchers. Our mission is to enhance the ability of life science researchers to improve, through their research, the health, well-being and productivity of all people.

Greater investment in basic and applied agricultural research is essential, as the demand for a safer and more nutritious food supply continues to increase. Basic research in agriculture establishes the scientific foundation required to provide this in a manner that reduces environmental pollution, promotes sustainable yields, improves human health, and promotes the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace. FASEB is strongly in favor of establishing a research entity within the USDA to support high quality, fundamental research, allowing advancement of current knowledge and enhancing the superiority of American agriculture.

Scientific excellence is dependent upon rigorous merit review. Ensuring that our agricultural research portfolio is dedicated to funding competitive, peer-reviewed basic research in agriculture is a goal towards which we should strive. FASEB believes that enhancing our investment in the intramural and extramural research programs at USDA will foment a culture of scientific eminence and innovation in agriculture that will be of great benefit to our nation.

We must maintain and magnify the breadth and competitive nature of the agricultural research portfolio, to ensure the United States' economic vitality and the well-being of all Americans. The current proposals to restructure the USDA's research programs share the common premise that agriculture and the research that advances it remain of crucial importance to our economy and quality of life. This is a theme with which FASEB fully concurs. As this process moves forward, FASEB would be pleased to work with you in creating the highest caliber agricultural research institute. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo T. Furcht".

Leo T. Furcht, M.D.
FASEB President