

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

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March 7, 2007

The Honorable Michael O. Johanns
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Rm. 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns,

At its October, 2006 meeting in Washington DC, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (the Board), reviewed the USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area's initiatives in the area of water quality and quantity. This was an especially timely review in light of the fact that within your Farm Bill proposal to Congress was considerable emphasis on expanded research to improve the viability of Specialty Crops and Renewable Bio-energy, two water intensive initiatives.

Enclosed please find the Board's report on this review along with bulleted recommendations which we believe keep in mind the fiscal responsibility of future federal budgets, and yet meet the needs of the American people.

As always, I remain available to discuss our findings with you. Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Martin A. Massengale
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Deputy Secretary Conner
Under Secretary for REE Buchanan
U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations committees/subcommittees

