

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

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March 18, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 200-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, we are forwarding a copy of the Board's review of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Peer Review Process. This activity of the Board was identified in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. The enclosed report with recommendations is the result of work conducted by a Review Panel of the Board.

We trust that your review of the report and its recommendations will assist you and other Departmental personnel in improving the quality, productivity and technology transfer of research and education efforts. Also, we hope this advice will assist in further improving the Peer Review Process.

If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.



Sincerely
Martin A. Massengale
Chair

Enclosure: Advisory Board Report with Recommendations on the ARS Peer Review Process

cc: U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations
committees/subcommittees

National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
Acting Under Secretary – Smith