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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 26, 2014

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2362A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt:

We are writing today to express our concern that the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) intends to close the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, and has submitted a reprogramming request to the subcommittee in order to do so. We are disappointed that we did not receive notification from ARS about their plans to close the sheep center in Dubois. Closing the Dubois center would have a significant impact on the western sheep industry, and we are concerned that they were not consulted before the decision was made. Because of these concerns, we respectfully ask that you deny this reprogramming request.

We know firsthand the value of the research conducted at the Dubois center and the economic benefit it provides the sheep industry. ARS is currently conducting important research at the Dubois Station on how the interaction between domestic and bighorn sheep may impact wild sheep herds, an issue of critical importance to the sheep industry in the west. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to continue this research if the Dubois center was closed. We are concerned that ARS has not sufficiently explained how it intends to continue this and other research elsewhere or what impact this move will have on the sheep industry.

We appreciate that you are carefully examining this request and ARS's intended actions, and we ask that for the time being you will disapprove the reprogramming request.

Mike Simpson (ID-02)

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Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)

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