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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Jacob Lew
United States Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

As the Chair and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, we write today in support of global agricultural research. We are deeply concerned by the World Bank's proposal to phase out \$50 million in direct funding for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and ask that you urge the World Bank to continue its support for this vital tool to promote long-term global food security.

For decades, the CGIAR Consortium has pioneered solutions to some of the most significant barriers to global food security by improving crop genetics, developing innovative pest and disease control strategies, and enhancing natural resource management. CGIAR research has generated two dollars in measurable benefit for every dollar invested while helping some of the world's most vulnerable communities break the cycle of poverty. However, we are tasked with feeding 9 billion people by 2050, and substantial challenges for global food production remain. Further innovation is needed to address pervasive hunger, mitigate the effects of extreme weather, and increase productivity with limited soil and water resources.

We applaud the World Bank's history of leadership in international agricultural research. However, the fight to end world hunger requires a stable long-term funding commitment, and now is not the time to diminish global investment in CGIAR research. We ask that you take our concerns to the World Bank as funding decisions are made for this important initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry



Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry