

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Hoeven,

As the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies develops the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 funding bill, we urge the Subcommittee to build on increased investments and support for 1890 Land-Grant institutions contained in the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus.

In 2020, the 1890 universities celebrated the 130th anniversary of the passage of the Second Morrill Act which established their institutions. In the decades since, these universities have educated hundreds of thousands of African American students – creating the next generation of scholars and educators and serving as a gateway to success for students to whom so many doors of opportunity were closed. The legacy of these universities is rooted in innovative research, extensive public outreach, and economic development initiatives that continue to support rural and urban communities today. According to a study performed by the United Negro College Fund, 1890 institutions contribute more than \$4.4 billion to their local economies and prepare thousands of students for successful careers.

The bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill provided new investment opportunities for 1890 universities, and past funding bills have also realized the needs of these agricultural research institutions. We look forward to passing a Farm Bill this year with strong support for 1890 Land-Grant Universities. In addition, we urge the Subcommittee to continue this momentum and provide the robust funding that these universities require to remain on the cutting edge of agricultural and scientific research.

We ask that the Subcommittee fund the **1890 Centers of Excellence (COE) at the fully authorized amount of \$10 million**. This program was funded at \$10 million in FY23. Continued investments in the 1890 COE initiative will ensure sustained efforts that promote groundbreaking research and spur economic growth.

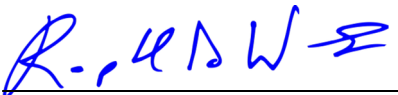
The COEs were first authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill and are addressing challenges like agricultural workforce development, nutrition and food security, economic development and emerging technologies, and will encourage the diversification of our agricultural workforce. Each 1890 COE will focus on increasing market access and economic returns for farmers and rural communities, contributing to poverty reduction, and reducing health disparities and economic vulnerability of local and rural communities.

The 2018 Farm Bill also established **scholarships for students at 1890 institutions. We request funding of this program at the fully-authorized amount of \$10 million.** The program was previously funded at \$10 million in FY23. This funding will ensure more young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds can attend 1890 Land-Grant institutions to pursue careers in agriculture and agribusiness. As the Subcommittee knows, the average age of American farmers continues to increase and younger farmers often struggle to gain a foothold in this capital-intensive business. Yet, as 70 percent of farmland is projected to change ownership in the coming years, it is clear the Congress should take steps to ensure the next generation of farmers reflects the diversity of our nation and that they are ready when the opportunity presents itself.

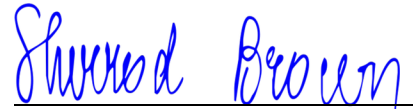
Finally, research and extension at 1890 institutions addresses many urgent and critical local, regional, national, and global problems, especially as these issues affect low-income and underserved communities. That is why it is imperative that we increase funding for programs that support these schools, their students, and their continued groundbreaking research. We ask that you appropriate **\$108,000,000 for the Evans-Allen Research Program, \$88,000,000 for the 1890 Extension Program, \$30,000,000 for 1890 Capacity Building Grants, and \$100,000,000 for the 1890 Facilities Grants Program** in the upcoming fiscal year.

We strongly urge the Subcommittee to fully fund these important 1890 Land-Grant programs. We appreciate your consideration of this request and your past support for our nation's 1890 Universities. We look forward to continuing our work with you to invest in our nation's land-grants universities and agricultural sector.

Sincerely,



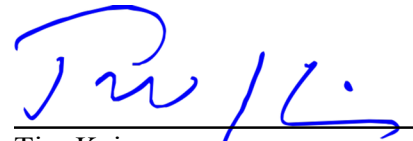
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator




Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



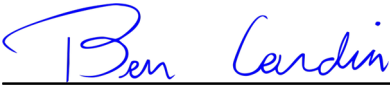
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



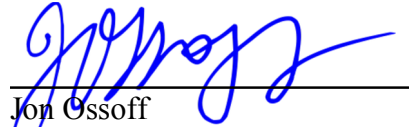
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator