

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2001

The Honorable Henry Bonilla
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration and Related
Agencies
2362 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration and Related
Agencies
2366 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3509

Dear Chairman Bonilla and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As the conference committee meets on the FY2002 Agricultural Appropriation bill, we respectfully request that these initiatives regarding Pierce's Disease (PD) be funded at the following House and Senate levels. These initiatives are important to our constituents and the American wine industry.

Maintain House position of \$10 million -- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

As you are aware, Pierce's Disease and its vector, the glassy-winged sharp shooter, are actively devastating vineyards in California. The Federal funds requested are needed to assist the California Department of Agriculture in its efforts to contain and control PD.

Maintain House position of \$2 million -- Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service (CSREES) -- Special Research Grant -- This funding would be used by the University of California (UC) to study short and long-term alternatives for combating this epidemic, and to control the bacterium (*Xylella fastidiosa*) common to Pierce's Disease and several other diseases affecting almonds, alfalfa, oleander and citrus.

Maintain House position of \$2 million -- Viticulture Consortium

The Consortium, administered by Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University and the University of California, currently receives a CSREES special grant of \$1.5 million. The Consortium has begun to address the unmet research needs important to the wine industry. As an active partnership of federal, state and industry resources, the Consortium enhances research coordination and collaboration, which improves efficiency and eliminates duplication of effort.

Maintain Senate position of \$3.5 million -- Short and Long Term Research

Basic research is still necessary to understand this disease and its vector. At present, Pierce's Disease is the most production-limiting disease on grapevines. Current control

methods are only partially effective and disrupt many Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans currently in place for other host commodities, such as citrus.

Maintain House position of \$2 million -- Exotic Pest Center (UC Riverside)

Exotic pests have an enormous economic impact on California, costing agriculture an estimated \$3 billion annually. Exotic pests and diseases will continue to enter the United States, probably at an accelerated rate, because of increased international air transport, growing tourism and human immigration from semitropical and tropical regions where many of California's crops originate. The University of California Center for Exotic Pest Research (CEPR) is organized to provide such a strategic approach.

Maintain House position of \$800,000 for Grape Rootstock (Geneva, NY) and \$600,000 for Sustainable Viticulture (UC Davis) research

With these positions, ARS will be able to provide research into hardy grape rootstock and development of biologically and environmentally sound grape growing practices, which enhance compatibility with soil, water, air and biotic resources.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests. We fully appreciate the difficult task you and the other members of the conference committee have and, as such, we deeply appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to call us if you or your staff need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Greg Redwood

George Miller

Nancy Pelosi

Tom Lu

Min Shomper

Jerry Lewis

Ken Alford

Richard Pombo

Mark Solay

Barbara Lee

Thomas Gled

Mike Hand

Grace F. Yapolitens

Al Dooly

Dalene Hovley

Don Rahn

Bob Fulmer

Lynn Woolsey

Richard Drinn

Mary Bone

Anna Esch

Karl Blumenthal

Loetta Sanchez

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Robert J. Matson

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