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July 6, 2018

Honorable Chairman Pat Roberts  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Honorable Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

Thank you for your support of US agricultural, food, and natural resource research, education, extension and economics. The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) represents over 2,500 members who hail from all across the United States, and these topics matter to us as well.

We write to express concern about H.R. 2, Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018's section 7103, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB) membership categories. The categories mention neither agricultural statistics nor agricultural economics. This is of great concern to the AAEA. Since the NAREEEAB advises the globally preeminent intramural research and economic statistics institution, the Economic Research Service as well as the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the premier U.S. agricultural statistics resource, ***we respectfully request that the NAREEEAB include at least one agricultural or applied economist.***

Thank you again for your leadership and efforts for a secure and prosperous agricultural future.

Sincerely,

Scott Swinton  
President, AAEA

David Zilberman  
President-Elect, AAEA

CC: Members of the House Agriculture Committee  
CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry