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April 3, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

As you begin drafting the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, I respectfully request your support for the following projects in or near the 7th district of Texas. I have ranked these requests in priority order and attempted to limit the amount of each request to reflect the project's need and to simplify your difficult task.

To simplify your task and to help control federal spending, I apply a rigorous filter to every spending request I receive. I tell everyone who asks me for federal funding that the starting answer is "no" and that "yes" is very hard to earn. I will not even consider a request from a private individual or a private company because I think it will unavoidably lead to problems. Then it must be an absolutely essential project of great public benefit that falls within the confines of the U. S. Constitution's grant of authority to Congress, and it must be in dire need of federal funding to assure the continuation of the work in question. Even if these conditions are met, I still filter out quite a few projects because of the dangerously large federal deficit and the unsustainable national debt. After all these filters are applied, I then try to limit the projects I consider to medical or scientific research at the Texas Medical Center or NASA, critical flood control or transportation projects, or defending our borders and our national security. I am especially supportive of nanotechnology research because it will totally transform our lives forever by helping us cure human diseases at the earliest stages when only a few cells are involved, by improving human productivity as well as the efficiency of every device that runs on electricity, and by helping to make America energy independent.

1. Children's Nutrition Research Center, at Baylor College of Medicine: \$2,000,000 in the Agriculture Research Service's Human Nutrition account for genetic research to determine principal causes of health problems such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

According to the National Institutes of Health, approximately 23.6 million Americans have type 2 diabetes – which represents 7.8 percent of the U.S. population. In addition, heart disease is the leading



*Baylor College of
Medicine's
CNRC in Houston, TX.*

cause of death for both men and women in the U.S. (source: Centers for Disease Control). Both of these diseases are closely related to nutrition, but more scientific data is needed to understand how nutrients in foods interact with an individual's genes during childhood development in order to dissect the nature of genetic and environmental interactions that underlie development of the childhood risk factors leading to the chronic diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

This funding would be used by Baylor College of Medicine's Children's Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) to study gene expression as a function of feeding during infancy and childhood as well as description of the mechanisms that drive interactions between nutrients and genes as a function of organ development during infancy and childhood. They will also permit description of the nutrient-gene and nutrient-epigene interactions during childhood development that are responsible for food intake and physical activity behaviors leading to obesity or to success in the treatment of obesity. Finally, the same approaches will be applied to studying the genetic and epigenetic foundations for the roles of calcium and Vitamin D in optimal childhood bone mineral accretion, in order to prevent osteoporosis later in life, and to the actions of dietary fats and sugars on the genes responsible for heart and blood vessel development, in order to understand the roles of dietary fats and sugars intake during childhood on the evolution cardiovascular diseases later in adult life.

Should your office need any additional information, please contact Brittany Seabury at 5-2571.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Culberson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Culberson
Member of Congress