

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

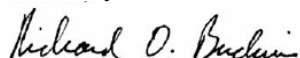
As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations process, Purdue University respectfully submits for your consideration the Midwest Center for Bioenergy Grasses (MCBG).

The Midwest Center for Bioenergy Grasses provides a national resource of research and education dedicated to optimizing bioenergy crops for their end-use in biofuels production. The Center's driving mission is to take the discoveries made in our laboratories into agronomic practice in a sustainable and environmentally sound way and to develop the technologies for optimal conversion of bioenergy grasses to biofuels and other value-added materials.

Grass species provide the most abundant potential feedstocks for biofuels, using lignocellulosic material from bioenergy crops and crop residues in addition to simple sugars produced and stored as direct photosynthate. The MCBG comprises four Thrust Areas that provide transformational research to improve biomass quantity and quality in bioenergy grasses and to develop chemical conversion pathways of lignocellulosic biomass to biofuels. The Center's goal is to more than double the carbon captured into fuel molecules compared to existing conversion routes and to expand the product range beyond ethanol to alkanes and new energy-rich aromatic liquid fuels and other value-added molecules currently made through oxygenation of petrochemicals.

On behalf of President France Córdova, I thank you for your support of the students, faculty, and staff at Purdue University. We look forward to working with you to translate the technological advances made on our campuses into economic drivers for the State of Indiana.

Sincerely,



Richard O. Buckius
Vice President of Research