



March 5, 2009

The Honorable Randy Neugebauer  
1424 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neugebauer:

On behalf of the National Sorghum Producers, I would like to express our support of the on-going sorghum research being undertaken by the USDA-ARS sorghum research group located in Lubbock, Texas.

In 2000, funding provided by Congress helped create sorghum research programs in Lubbock, TX to research both drought and cold tolerance in sorghum. Various research activities, which included, but were not limited to, screening technologies, plant physiology, and molecular research are being developed to improve germplasm and develop sorghums with improved drought and cold tolerance.

Sorghum is an important drought tolerance crop that is used in various crop rotation schemes that include crops such as wheat and cotton. Research has started to understand how drought tolerance functions in sorghum and various screening technologies are being developed to assist breeders in rapidly identifying and moving those genes into improved germplasm. Sorghum, however, is not very cold tolerant and typically needs soil temperature above 60° F. In order to fully maximize its yield potential, sorghum that could be planted into cooler soil temperatures could utilize longer growing seasons to optimize yields. Germplasm from China has been identified that could provide breakthroughs in our understanding of cold tolerance in sorghum and research needs to continue in this area to help in increasing yields in the crop.

We are asking for your support to restore \$262,152 to the program entitled "Molecular and genetic enhancement of drought and temperature stress tolerance in sorghum" located in Lubbock, TX.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Lust". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Lust  
CEO, NSP