

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2504

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the ARS Center for Agricultural Animal Genetic Engineering and Health Facility in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Missouri, located at 1080 Hitt Street, Room 3007, Columbia, Missouri 65211. The funding would be used to construct an ARS co-located Research Facility for Agricultural Animal Genetic Engineering and Health in Columbia, MO.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the funding will ensure the United States does not fall behind other countries, such as China and Brazil, in investing in genetic engineering in livestock. There are tremendous opportunities available for addressing production issues that affect animal welfare, sustainability, food security, zoonotic diseases, and economic development. Advanced animal genetic research facilities such as the one proposed in Columbia Missouri, are necessary for the nation to keep pace economically, and to protect the health of US citizens.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 7 U.S. Code section 2250.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford  
Member of Congress