



February 24, 2017

The Honorable Tom Corbin  
Natural Resources and Economic Development Subcommittee  
Senate Finance Committee  
PO Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Corbin:

I am writing on behalf of Palmetto AgriBusiness Council (PABC) in support of Clemson University's Public Service Activities (PSA) budget request FY2017-18. PABC represents some of the largest employers in South Carolina with a mission to sustain the economic viability of the state's largest industry which contributes \$42 billion to the economy and provides over 200,000 jobs.

Clemson has identified the following initiatives which address protecting our natural resources, expanding our economic impact and providing science-based solutions to South Carolina's agribusinesses:

**Rebuilding Ag and Natural Resources Programs (Recurring Request: \$1.3 million)**

This funding will provide core operational support to Clemson research that propels teams of scientists and Extension Agents to engineer innovative technologies for current and emerging farmers.

**Rebuilding Statewide Extension Programs (Recurring Request: \$1.5 million)**

Funding shortfalls mean that 41% of South Carolina's 46 county Cooperative Extension Offices must remain closed at least part of the day. This funding will allow Clemson Cooperative Extension to meet the needs of South Carolinians during regular business hours, by supporting critical hires in areas like row crop, agronomy, livestock production and forestry management.

**Water Resources Research, Management, and Technology (Recurring Request: \$2.5 million)**

In conjunction with other University research programs and other state agencies, Clemson PSA will provide scientific expertise to conduct research and education programs related to South Carolina's water resources. This funding will be used to unify the individual programs into a complete and integrated Water Resource Program that will provide information to state and federal agency collaborators as they implement sound water-based policies.

**Facility Renovation for Water Research (Nonrecurring Request: \$7 million)**

This funding will allow Clemson PSA to renovate and upgrade Clemson University's Environmental Toxicology Building to support an expanding team of water resources experts for science-based data collection and analysis.

**T. Ed Garrison Arena (Nonrecurring Request: \$10 million)**

This funding is for facility improvements at the T. Ed Garrison arena which will allow Clemson University PSA to recruit regional and national events, as well as provide a venue for student-centered events and indoor experiential lab space.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your service and support of South Carolina agribusiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Brown".

Randy Brown  
Chairman

**OFFICERS**  
Randy Brown  
Chairman  
Fred West  
Vice Chairman  
Cam Crawford  
Secretary/Treasurer

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**  
Tim Amerson  
Henry Barton  
Chalmers Carr  
Pamela Lackey  
Harry Ott  
Sarah Windham  
Edgar Woods

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Travis Lee Avant  
Larry Boyleston  
Mike Brenan  
Pat Calhoun  
Clay Chappell  
Chuck Claunch  
Baynard Connelly  
Barry Cronie  
Mike Farmer  
David Gossett  
Kathy Heustess  
Michael Johnson  
Richard Kizer  
Gene Kodama  
Danny Mixon  
Wayne Rawl  
William Robinson  
Jim Roquemore  
Tin Singleton  
Jason Walther  
Hugh Weathers  
Keith Windle  
David West

**STAFF**  
Ronald L. Summers  
CEO  
Sandy Boozer  
Executive Assistant

602 Meeting St.  
Suite B  
W. Columbia, SC 29169  
(803) 926-3462  
(803) 926-3463 Fax  
www.scagribusiness.org