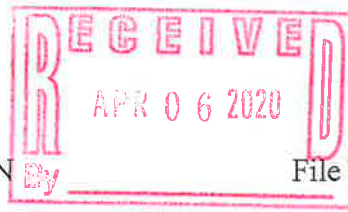


Enrolled No. R163-054

RESOLUTION



File No. 19-20/107

REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR AT LEAST A 20% INCREASE IN FEDERAL SMITH-LEVER AND 1890 EXTENSION CAPACITY FUNDING IN THE USDA'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension system is the core mechanism through which land grant colleges and universities bring vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, consumers, families, and young people in rural and urban settings;

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension has a presence in virtually every county, parish and borough in the country;

WHEREAS, these programs include 4-H, the country's largest youth development organization, which serves nearly 6 million youth and focuses on social and economic mobility for all kids, workforce development, and positively impacting the health of all Americans.

WHEREAS, capacity funding through Smith-Lever and 1890's Extension is the backbone of the Extension system, which is leveraged many times over to implement science-based education programs and support local educators;

WHEREAS, capacity funds give Extension the ability to respond quickly to extreme and emerging issues that fall outside of standard programs including responding to natural disasters and emerging health crises;

WHEREAS, Smith-Lever capacity funding has not increased for the past several years, severely limiting the ability of the Extension system to meet counties' most pressing problems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors requests and supports at least a 20% increase in federal Smith-Lever and 1890 Extension capacity funding in the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture in the FY21 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board directs the county clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the state legislators representing Eau Claire County, Governor Tony Evers and local elected officials within Eau Claire County. In addition, the county clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association and the National Association of Counties, requesting their advocacy to support these goals.

ADOPTED: March 17, 2020

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk