

April 22, 2015

Hon. Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

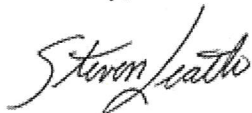
Thank you for your leadership on important issues related to science and technology. As you know, promoting basic, fundamental research is critical to our national competitiveness and security.

I am pleased to see that the Committee is moving forward on reauthorizing the bioenergy programs at the Department of Energy. These programs in biofuels and bioproducts research help our nation become more energy independent and competitive. At Iowa State University (ISU), we are transforming biomass into advanced materials for revolutionary products—all without sacrificing critical food and feed needs. By reauthorizing bioenergy programs at DOE, the Committee recognizes the importance of this research, not only to our region, but also to the nation.

I do have concerns, however, with the deep cuts to the Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Division at DOE. Much of the research, including the work on bioenergy, is critical to energy diversification and independence from foreign countries. Moreover, research at universities like ISU is fundamental—we are not commercializing products but rather doing the necessary groundwork that catalyzes an economy. The Committee should work to protect this kind of basic research, as it will not be funded by industry.

I hope that as the process moves forward on this legislation that we can be a resource to you. We would like to continue to work with you on important renewable energy basic research programs at DOE, and bioscience programs at other agencies like NSF. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to continuing our discussions on this and other important topics.

Sincerely,



Steven Leath
President

Cc: Honorable Steve King
Honorable Dave Loeb sack
Honorable Rod Blum
Honorable David Young