

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 16, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress continues its work to deliver results for the American people, we urge you to prioritize funding for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prevent and prepare for a possible African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak in the U.S. swine population. Significant investments to prevent ASF are necessary now to ensure that pork producers in our districts and across the country do not suffer the severe consequences of a potential ASF outbreak in the United States.

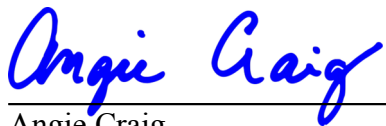
In an alarming update published on July 28, 2021, APHIS confirmed ASF in samples collected from hogs in the Dominican Republic. In the nearly two months since that announcement, APHIS has rapidly mobilized to prevent ASF from entering the U.S. A confirmed ASF positive sample in any U.S. state or territory would be devastating to the American pork industry and rural economy. An outbreak in any part of the U.S would restrict pork producers from being able to participate in global trade. America's pork producers are a crucial part of the food supply chain domestically and they contribute close to seven billion dollars in global exports. Therefore, significant additional investments in APHIS are vital.

In the next continuing resolution or supplemental appropriations package, we urge you to ensure that \$75 million is included for the following ASF preparedness and response provisions:

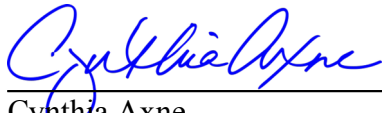
- **Increased funding of \$20 million for additional staff for APHIS-Veterinary Service (VS) field force.** This funding will build field capacity to respond to and address a potential ASF or other foreign animal disease outbreak on the mainland U.S. or U.S. territories.
- **Funding the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) at the authorized level of \$30 million.** This investment would double capacity for ASF-PCR testing at NAHLN laboratories and build infrastructure and workforce capabilities to address foreign animal disease surveillance and response.
- **\$25 million for the National Veterinary Stockpile for large animal depopulation and disposal equipment.** If ASF is detected in the U.S., large-scale euthanasia or depopulation of animals will be necessary for the emergency control and eradication of ASF. The lack of resources within the NVS was a serious gap during the response to COVID market disruptions.

Thank you for considering this urgent request and incorporating significant ASF prevention funding in the next available vehicle that moves through this Congress.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress



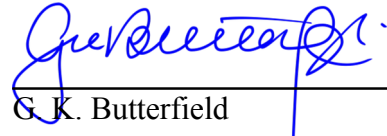
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



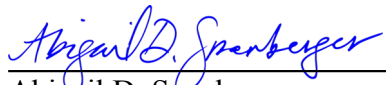
David Scott  
Member of Congress  
Chair, Committee on  
Agriculture



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress