

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baldwin and Ranking Member Hoeven:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request robust funding to address the ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak.

Since it was first confirmed in February 2022 in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana, HPAI has been detected in 32 states across the country and has killed over 36 million birds. Although the virus poses minimal risk to human health, it has serious implications for U.S. poultry producers, rural communities, and our agricultural economy.

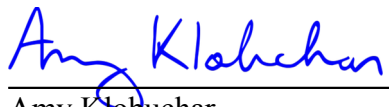
These are the first positive HPAI cases since the 2015 outbreak that killed more than 50 million birds, accounting for 12 percent of the egg laying hen population and 8 percent of the turkey inventory. The Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in partnership with state and local agencies, has responded quickly and applied the experience gained from the 2015 outbreak to better inform on-the-ground, rapid response efforts.

The APHIS avian health program is responsible for avian influenza surveillance, reporting, and control efforts, as well as distributing indemnity payments to affected poultry producers. As the number of confirmed HPAI cases has increased, APHIS has ramped up its action in response, using significant resources to do so.

The President's budget request for the APHIS avian health program was \$65 million for FY 2023, which reflects a small increase from the enacted level of \$63 million in FY2021 and 2022. Given the recent outbreak, the ongoing increase in confirmed HPAI cases, and the likelihood of further spread, we urge the Subcommittee to make funding for the APHIS avian health program a high priority. These funds are critical to continue HPAI response measures.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



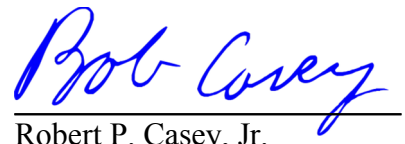
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator