

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

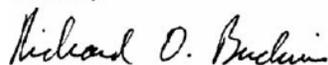
As the Senate begins the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations process, Purdue University respectfully submits for your consideration the *Integrated Economic, Environmental and Technical Analysis of Sustainable Biomass Energy Systems* initiative.

The rapid expansion of bioenergy production in Indiana and the US will have profound impacts on our environment as well as our economy. Our research will determine how Indiana and the Midwest can contribute to the national goal of generating 25% of our energy from renewable sources by 2025 and will examine how biomass production and conversion would affect the economy and environment of the region. We will study the economic and environmental consequences of feasible alternative energy sources and determine the most sustainable and profitable strategy to provide renewable energy from biomass.

Production of ethanol in Indiana is rapidly expanding and is expected to be over 2 billion gallons in 2 years, making Indiana an ideal test bed for assessing the impact of the rapidly changing energy landscape. In addition, Indiana has a mix of crop, livestock and forest production that is representative of the Midwestern area expected to contribute significantly to bioenergy production.

On behalf of President France Córdova, I thank you for your continued support of the students, faculty, and staff at Purdue University. We look forward to working with you to translate the technological advances made on our campuses into economic drivers for the State of Indiana.

Sincerely,



Richard Buckius
Vice President of Research