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Congress of the United States  
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Gentlemen:

As you and the small but dedicated staff of FAPRI celebrate the organization's twenty-fifth anniversary, I look upon the opportunity to commemorate this important milestone as an honor and privilege. The work that you do, the research you conduct and the intellectual products that you produce are so significant that I simply cannot fathom the prospect of making difficult agri-business policy decisions without the benefit of your comprehensive reports.

Although Missouri farmers benefit greatly from your forecasts and briefings, your span of influence is much broader. In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that your work affects trade and diplomacy worldwide. Members of Congress frequently commission studies to determine likely consequences for proposed legislation; the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and State are regular customers who seek guidance pertaining to trade negotiations and foreign policy; and a host of private individuals, business interests and investors find your analyses, models, reports and projections indispensable to their respective endeavors.

As arable land dwindles and the world population expands, your work is certain to become increasingly important. May you continue to build upon the solid reputation for excellence that the FAPRI team forged in its first quarter century of service to the nation.

Sincerely,



W. Todd Akin  
Member of Congress  
Second District, Missouri