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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2600

August 13, 2014

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) extend the comment period regarding the Agriculture Research Service's (ARS) U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) in Dubois, Idaho, and discontinue efforts to close the facility.

On July 9th of this year, I joined several other Western members of Congress in expressing to you our strong support for the station. We also fought successfully to prevent its closure after USDA requested to reprogram the funds from the sheep station. As USDA reevaluates the station again, I reaffirm my support of the station and will continue to closely monitor any future developments or efforts to close USSES.