

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 3, 2023

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Director Young:

As you work to develop the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget, we respectfully request that this year's budget build on previous investments by including robust support for the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.

In 2020, the 1890 universities celebrated the 130th anniversary of the passage of the *Second Morrill Act*, which established 19 additional land-grant universities. In the decades since their establishment, these universities have educated hundreds of thousands of African American students – creating the next generation of scholars and educators and serving as a gateway to success for students to whom so many doors of opportunity were previously closed.

The legacy of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions is rooted in innovative research, extensive public outreach, and economic development initiatives, which continue to support rural and urban communities today. According to a study performed by the United Negro College Fund, 1890 institutions contribute more than \$4.4 billion to their local economies and prepare thousands of students for successful careers.

The FY 2023 Omnibus included important investments and support for the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, building upon investments made in the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. We urge you to build upon this momentum and provide the robust funding that these universities require to remain on the cutting edge of agricultural and scientific research in your FY2024 budget.

Specifically, we ask that the FY24 budget provide the following funding levels for the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions:

- \$10 million for 1890 Centers of Excellence
- \$10 million for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions
- \$108 million for the Evans-Allen Research Program
- \$88 million for the 1890 Extension Program
- \$30 million for 1890 Capacity Building Grants
- \$100 million for the 1890 Facilities Grants Program

We appreciate your consideration of this request and your past support for our nation's 1890 Universities.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sherrod Brown in blue ink.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Reverend Raphael Warnock in blue ink.

Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator