

**STATEMENT OF KERRY E. HARTMAN, PH.D.  
ACADEMIC DEAN & SCIENCE CHAIR  
NUETA HIDATSA SAHNISH COLLEGE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
JUNE 15, 2017**

**Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Members of the Committee, I am Dr. Kerry Hartman, Academic Dean and Science Chair at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota.**

**On behalf of the nation's 34 Tribal College land-grant institutions, known as the 1994 institutions, thank you for this opportunity to talk about our place-based research programs.**

**Indian Country includes some of the most isolated and economically challenged regions in the U.S., but our lands are rich in natural resources and our people are among the most resilient in the world. Within this context, Tribal Colleges are working to strengthen tribal economies;**

**revitalize our cultures and languages; and protect, restore, and sustainably use our lands, waters, and traditional foods.**

**Since 2001, my undergraduate students and I have been conducting culturally and economically relevant research under the USDA-TCU program.**

**The goal of my current NIFA research project, conducted with tribal Game and Fish biologists and South Dakota State University, is to figure out how to develop and maintain an environment that will support *native* pollinators of *Amerlanchier Cultivars*, or juneberries.**

**Juneberries are an ancient plant. Their high levels of protein, calcium, and antioxidants sustained generations of Native peoples throughout the northern plains and woodlands, until native pollinators and juneberry stands fell victim to westward expansion.**

**If we can restore the juneberries' native habitat, we could sustainably cultivate crops for local use and small farm commercial production, helping to grow our reservation economy and improve the health status of our**

people. We will also be restoring identity and cultural pride within the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people.

This project would not happen without USDA support for specialty crop research. The need for research into emerging technologies for small farmers; invasive species management; sustainable growth; and food security is essential in Indian Country, as our juneberry research attests.

As you work to reauthorize the Farm Bill, I have three quick recommendations:

(1) **Acknowledge the value of undergraduate, place-based research and education**

The Farm Bill's research provisions should specifically acknowledge that diversity matters: students and faculty at 1994s and minority and small institutions can enhance the cultural competency **AND** research capacity of the next generation of agricultural scientists and practitioners. This is important in our expanding global economy.

**(2) Resist Efforts to Consolidate Federal STEM Research Programs**

**We will lose research opportunity under the President's budget proposal to consolidate federal STEM programs. History demonstrates that small and poor institutions, like the 1994s, cannot compete against Research One and large land-grant institutions.**

**(3) Establish McIntire-Stennis Eligibility for 1994s**

**This is a matter of equity: in 2008, the McIntire Stennis Act was amended to include Tribal *lands* in the formula for state forestry programs, but tribal *land-grant institutions* were excluded. Please amend the Mac-Stennis formula to include 1994s with forestry programs.**

**Mr. Chairman and Madam Ranking Member, the 1994s are proud to be part of the nation's land-grant system. Thank you.**