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

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
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February 23, 2026

The Honorable Kelly Moore
Acting Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Support for University of Arizona's Application for the New World Screwworm Grand Challenge Funding Opportunity, USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-26-0001

USDA-APHIS Review Committee:

I write in strong support of the University of Arizona's application for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's APHIS New World Screwworm (NWS) Grand Challenge funding opportunity. This investment would advance a vital public-private partnership, "PREP NWS: Preparedness through Research, Extension, and Stakeholder Partnerships for New World Screwworm in Arizona."

As NWS continues its northward spread through Mexico, USDA has taken important steps to strengthen domestic agricultural security, including enhanced port-of-entry inspections and regular coordination with Congress. Yet the threat extends beyond Texas and poses significant risk to the entire American Southwest.

With USDA support, the University of Arizona will lead a cross-disciplinary team of scientists and Cooperative Extension educators to deliver timely, science-based information to diverse stakeholder groups. The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA), in partnership with the University and the Arizona Department of Agriculture, has joined this effort, forming a strong and effective collaboration. ACGA is uniquely positioned to facilitate educational programming and ensure that beef producers develop informed ranch management plans through workshops and targeted outreach.

I support USDA's objectives to develop deployable NWS detection tools, accelerate response in affected regions, create predictive emergence models to guide resource allocation, evaluate biomonitoring strategies, advance animal welfare and management systems, and assess anticipated and emerging economic impacts.

University faculty are well prepared to respond swiftly—educating stakeholders on risk, streamlining detection and reporting processes, promoting veterinary best practices, and collaborating on field trials of innovative detection and management strategies with meaningful stakeholder input.

As the Secretary noted, this funding represents a strategic investment in America's ranchers and the protection of our domestic food supply.¹ I fully concur and respectfully urge approval of the University of Arizona's application for this critical initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Director, Macayle Fuchs (Macayle.Fuchs@mail.house.gov), with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

¹ "USDA Announces New World Screwworm Grand Challenge." (2026, January 21). U.S. Department of Agriculture. ([Press Release](#)).