

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

April 24, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

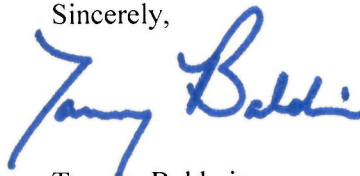
Dear Secretary Vilsack and Director Donovan:

As avian flu continues to impact farms in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest, I am writing to ask for your continued efforts to deploy federal resources to contain outbreaks of the virus in poultry, and to assist farmers in responding to contamination in their flocks.

The federal resources made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have been critical to helping states, poultry companies, and farmers respond to the avian flu outbreak. As it becomes clear that more resources are necessary to combat this outbreak, I urge you to continue prioritizing the prompt release of emergency funding for APHIS's Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza response actions. It is especially critical that funds are available for farms as soon as APHIS inspectors and farmers are ready to move forward with indemnification. I understand that if these funds are not available, flu containment actions may be delayed. Please work to ensure that our producers can move forward quickly to eradicate the virus from their flocks as soon as they are able.

Thank you for your attention and the tireless work of APHIS personnel to responding to this critical situation. I look forward to working with you to ensure resources continue to be available for this important response.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin