



EXHIBIT G

Arkansas Department of Higher Education

423 Main Street, Suite 400 • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72201-3818 • (501) 371-2000 • Fax (501) 371-2001

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Maria Markham, Ph.D.
Director

October 5, 2017

The Honorable John Cooper, Chair
The Honorable Les Eaves, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council – Personnel Subcommittee
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Cooper and Representative Eaves:

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 21-5-1409 (b) (1) (A) (ii), I am requesting your review of a salary adjustment of more than two percent (2%) provided for classified employees at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture for Fiscal Year 2017-18. A request letter from University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is attached to provide details and justification regarding this request.

Should you require additional information, please let me know and I will be happy to provide.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Markham".

Maria Markham, Ph.D.
Director



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

September 21, 2017

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dr. Markham:

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture requests authorization to provide for a three percent (3%) COLA in fiscal year 2017-18 for its classified employees. With your approval and that of the Arkansas Legislative Council and the Personnel Subcommittee, this COLA will be awarded as a lump-sum payment in December.

The budget for the Division of Agriculture has remained virtually flat for the last decade allowing only for sporadic, minimal increases to the salary base of the employees. It is through cost-saving measures that money is available in FY 17-18 to cover a one-time payment this year for Division employees. This increase was delayed until a comfort level could be reached on the stability of the federal funding of the Division. While a decrease is expected in the federal funding, it is anticipated to be a modest 0.67 percent.

Because the Division is planning on awarding an average merit increase of 3% to nonclassified staff and faculty in December, authorizing the Division to award this lump-sum COLA to its classified staff will enable us to treat the classified staff similar to nonclassified staff. In addition, this will put the classified staff in the same time frame for the award of merit increases as nonclassified staff in this year and in future years.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Cochran, Ph.D.
Vice President for Agriculture