

Z. V. Pate, Inc.

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June 21, 2001

Mr. Whitney Rick, Chief
Research and Promotion Staff
Cotton Program
AMS/USDA, Stop 0224
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Room 2641-S South Building
Washington, DC 20250-02224

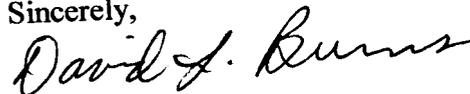
Dear Mr. Rick:

Our company has been farming in southeastern North Carolina for several generations. We would like to comment on the Cotton Research and Promotion Act that USDA is currently reviewing.

Results from the Cotton Research and Promotion Act has been a tremendous help on our farms. We have been able to utilize results from cotton research time after time and the promotion side continues to develop market demand for cotton. The check off funds that we spend for this program may well give us the best return of any money we invest in our farm operations.

We would encourage USDA to permit this research and promotion program to continue to do the great job it has done for both farmers and importers.

Sincerely,



David L. Burns
President

DLB/cpp

