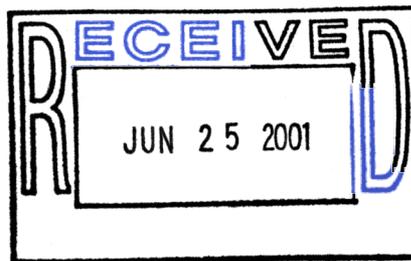


JOHN L. NOBLE
Route 3
Vienna, Georgia 31092



Mrs. Whitney Rick
Chief Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton Program
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
Stop 0224
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-0244

SUBJECT: Request for comments to be used in a review of 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act – Docket number (CN-01-002), 66FR 16440, March 26, 2001.

Dear Mrs. Rick:

As a cotton grower in Vienna, Georgia, I strongly feel that a referendum to determine whether the United States' Research and Promotion Program, funded by the Cotton Board, administered through Cotton Incorporated, is not necessary. My understanding is that the average American consumer's cotton consumption has doubled in the last decade through the highly recognizable Cotton Incorporated Fabric of Our Lives slogan and campaign. I know most people also recognize the Seal of Cotton logo as well. This program keeps cotton indelibly etched on Americans' minds and it continues to effectively increase the demand for cotton in this country and others abroad. This is imperative to all segments of our industry, especially in the critical economic slump, due to very low cotton prices we are currently experiencing.

The research portion of the program addresses many important issues for domestic growers and importers in the areas of production and processing. To briefly mention a few specifics: the cottonseed market has opened up through this program to the extent that there are now three production facilities licensed by Cotton Incorporated to produce Easiflo cottonseed, an easier handling cottonseed product; production systems such as variations in row spacing, planting patterns, plant populations and new varieties improve profitability over the traditional row spacing and varieties; and breeding programs across the cotton belt that concentrate on germplasm enhancement to improve yields and fiber characteristics.

The goals of producers and importers are being well met through this program and I urge you not to expend our assessment money on an unnecessary referendum. These funds should continue to be put into the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. It is serving us extremely well and if the time comes where we are not satisfied with the program, we will then opt for a referendum. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

John L. Noble