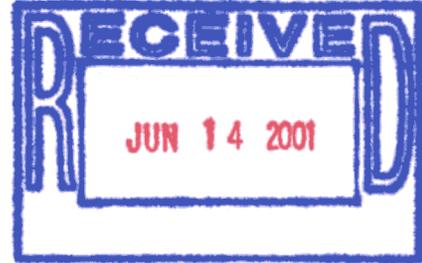


SWIG

June , 2001

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



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

Dear Ms. Rick

Southwestern Irrigated Cotton Growers Association (SWIG) is cooperative responsible for marketing the cotton produced by members in far west Texas, eastern Arizona and throughout most of New Mexico. In the interest of the 1,100 members of SWIG, I would like to express support for the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order. It is SWIG's opinion that a referendum under the Act is at this time unnecessary.

In the past, efforts funded by the Cotton Research and Promotion Act have produced numerous benefits for all segments of the cotton industry. Unfortunately, the cotton industry has now fallen on difficult times. Now more than ever, a strong research and promotion effort is needed to move the industry back into prosperity.

The cotton industry works diligently to make sure its interests are represented by a broad group of talented, active and hard working leaders. The cotton industry leadership is very comfortable with the management of the Cotton Board and Cotton Incorporated. Should the current satisfaction fade, the industry feels secure because of the ability to seek a referendum to address dissatisfaction.

In summary, SWIG is quite pleased with the productivity of the Cotton Board and Cotton Incorporated. Our organization sees no need to incur the expense and effort required to conduct a referendum. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Yours truly,

David L. Hand
President