



May 18, 2015

The Honorable Randy Gardner
Ohio Senate
One Capitol Square, Second Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Gardner:

I understand that the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee may be considering an amendment request to appropriate state matching funds for Central State University's land grant mission. With their recent designation as an 1890 institution, Central State will become eligible to receive federal monies from the Evans-Allen Research and 1890 Extension funds through the U.S. Department of Agriculture beginning October 1, 2015.

I support this request to provide the non-federal match required to access federal funds for 1890 institutions, while respectfully requesting that new appropriations be allocated outside of the current OARDC and OSU Extension line items to ensure that funding for these services are not negatively impacted.

As you may recall, Ohio State was a strong advocate of Central State's recent efforts to gain designation as an 1890 land grant institution and we remain committed partners on this important endeavor. The requested state funding will advance Central State's growth and enhance the land grant mission of both universities to benefit all Ohioans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

c: The Honorable Keith Faber, Ohio Senate President
The Honorable Chris Widener, Ohio Senate President Pro Tempore
All members of the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee