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**From:** Tuttle, Ilene [BOARD]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 8:29 AM  
**To:** Campbell, Bonnie J.; Downer, Robert; Evans, Jack B.; Gartner, Michael; Harkin, Ruth; Johnson, Greta A.; Lang, Craig; Miles, David; Vasquez, Rose  
**Cc:** Smith, Dianne [BOARD]; Gradert, Marilea; Novak, Kristin; Waters, Sally  
**Subject:** FW: Inquiry #414 Board of Regents - URGENT action on Extension Restructuring Plan  
**Attachments:** Extension restructuring letter.doc



Extension  
Restructuring letter..

At David's request, I'm forwarding the attached.

Ilene Tuttle  
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June 9, 2009

To: State of Iowa Board of Regents

CC: State of Iowa, Office of the Governor; Iowa State University President, Gregory L. Geoffroy; Iowa State University Vice President of Extension and Outreach, Jack Payne; State Senator, Nancy J. Boettger; State Representative, Clel Baudler; State Representative, Jack Drake; U.S. Congressman, Leonard Boswell; U.S. Congressman, Bruce Braley; U.S. Congressman, Steve King; U.S. Congressman, David Loebsack; U.S. Congressman, Tom Latham; U.S. Senator, Chuck Grassley; U.S. Senator, Tom Harkin

As a young person who grew up and currently lives and works in rural Iowa, I was extremely disappointed to hear the action that was taken by the ISU Extension and Outreach Program and the Board of Regents concerning the Extension Restructuring Plan. In today's economy, we all understand that budgets are tight and priorities must be identified, but making sound decisions for the future of Iowa and its citizens is paramount.

I am writing this letter because I directly benefited from outreach programs funded through ISU Extension, am active in rural grassroots organizations within our state, and am taking an active role as a young farmer and community member in Audubon, IA. While in high school, I served as President of the Adair County Youth Action Committee, received a State 4-H Citizenship Project Award, and attended National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA, all as a result of my 4-H involvement. During my tenure at Iowa State University, I served as a State FFA Officer, was President of the Collegiate 4-H Club, was a four year recipient of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship, served as co-chair of the College of Ag Student Ambassador Program, and was selected by my peers as "Ag Man of the Year" in 2004. Since earning my B.S. degree, I have been elected to serve on the Audubon County Extension Council, competed in the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer Discussion Meet, attended numerous area extension educational seminars, and was recently selected to serve on the Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Advisory Committee. All of these things were/are possible as a result of my exposure to extension and 4-H programming in Adair County as a youth.

As someone who directly benefited from Iowa State University's Extension and Outreach Program, I'm afraid of the repercussions that rural Iowa will face as a result of the restructuring plan that was announced in May 2009. As a member of the Audubon County Extension Council, it appears there are many more questions than answers regarding this hasty decision. A huge burden lies on the shoulders of the Board of Regents and the ISU Extension and Outreach Program as to the future and vitality of rural Iowa.

**Call To Action: At the next State of Iowa Board of Regents meeting, June 10-11, 2009, open a discussion to consider and take action on alternatives that were not originally brought to the table regarding the Extension Restructuring Plan brought forth in May 2009 (i.e. – reduced hours, furloughs, etc.). The future of our youth, our rural communities, and the Extension Program in Iowa depends on it. Please contact me with any questions regarding this matter.**

Sincerely,  
Randy Dreher