

The congressional delegations from Idaho and Washington have joined forces in their efforts to have a major federal research facility moved to Moscow.

In a letter dated July 6, the lawmakers urge U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to consider relocating the USDA's Agricultural Research Services Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory to the University of Idaho from Laramie, Wyo.

The letter is signed by Rep. Walt Minnick, D-Idaho, Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, R-Washington, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington.

“We believe that the University of Idaho is the best location for ABADRL, both in terms of current capabilities and the commitment to the program's mission,” the letter states. “The synergies with the ARS facilities in Pullman, Washington, make the UI site particularly impressive because of the strength of research activities that can be undertaken.”

Developing ...