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June 29, 2012

## Members of the California Delegation

On July 2, our nation will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing into law of the Morrill Act of 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln. This historic legislation was instrumental in creating what is today one of the largest and most respected university systems in the world--the University of California.

The Morrill Act granted tracts of federal lands to states for establishing universities. The University of California and scores of other great public research universities emanated from this legislation. Beginning with colleges teaching agriculture and the mechanic arts, these public land-grant institutions became engines of opportunity and innovation that transformed higher education and vaulted America into the Industrial Age. Today, the University of California continues to transform higher education through our mission of teaching, research, and public service and we continue to serve as an economic engine for California.

As we celebrate this historic anniversary, I wanted to share with you a supplement included in the recent edition of UC's academic journal, *California Agriculture*, which illustrates some of the great UC accomplishments made possible by the Morrill Act and our ongoing partnership with the federal government. I hope you will find it both informative and inspiring.

The Morrill Act represents the government's first commitment to developing higher education institutions and to producing broader opportunities for Americans to access higher education. Subsequently, Congress reinforced the federal government's support for American higher education by enacting the GI Bill of 1944; in response to Sputnik, the National Defense Education Act of 1958; the Higher Education Act of 1965 and its multiple expansions; the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008; and many other efforts.

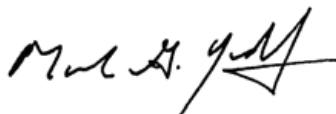
This anniversary reminds us that our work is not finished. The federal partnership with UC and other public universities is vital to our nation's economic strength, the education of future

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generations, and our efforts to address the greatest scientific and technological challenges of our time. The University of California is proud of its partnership with the federal government, and we look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen public higher education in California and across the nation.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark G. Yudof". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Mark G. Yudof  
President

cc: Provost Pitts  
Provost-designate Dorr  
Senior Vice President Dooley  
Associate Vice President Falle