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## CLC News

Congratulations to the Commodity Liaison Committee for the accomplishment of another IR-4 Program budget increase. Congress approved the 2003 IR-4 budget increase in a year where most programs saw either flat budgets or a decrease in funding. The CLC members worked very hard and diligently throughout the entire year to carry out this objective despite strong indications of the unlikelihood of an increase and a very lengthy budget process. The zenith of the CLC budget increase campaign came at the eleventh hour when ranking Senate and House Appropriations Committee members were deciding on an Omnibus Budget. The CLC held its Annual Meeting on February 25th in Washington D.C. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Project Management Committee and the “IR-4 Program 40th Anniversary Reception”. The highlight of the week was the February 26th evening reception on Capitol Hill appropriately entitled: “IR-4: Forty Years of Protecting the US Food Supply”. Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Doc Hastings of the State of Washington sponsored this special event that was attended by over 100 individuals including IR-4 staff and CLC members. IR-4 Regions and CLC members did an outstanding job of presenting posters along with samples of minor crops for reception attendees. The reception began with the opening remarks of Congressman Hastings who graciously outlined the importance of the IR-4 Program and minor crops in the quality of our daily lives. Senator Murray also made an appearance at the reception later giving her own warm and special remarks. An appreciative thank you goes to all the individuals who were involved in the planning and implementation of this important and special event. The CLC wishes everyone an enjoyable and productive summer.



Ann George, Washington Hop Commission, Congressman Doc Hastings, State of Washington, Rocky Lundy, Mint Industry Research Council

Article by Rocky Lundy, CLC Chair