

December 10, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Leader of the Majority
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader of the Minority
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

John Boehner
House Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
House Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senators Reid and McConnell;
Speaker Pelosi and Congressmen Hoyer and Boehner:

As Governors of states with prominent agriculture economies, we have vital interest in the status and progress of legislation affecting farmers – particularly the 2007 Farm Bill currently under consideration by the Congress.

While debate on the Farm Bill continues, the end goals should be the same: federal farm legislation should provide a consistent, dependable safety net for our nation's farmers; offer incentives for rural development and renewable energy; create strong incentives for conservation; and provide nutrition programs for the nation's needy families.

We urge you to work with your colleagues to reach a compromise on this important Farm Bill. It is essential that the holders of diverse opinions strive to find common ground to get a blended package that all parties can accept.

We ask that Congress move forward before the end of the year, in a bipartisan fashion to pass the Farm Bill. This legislation is important to our agriculture producers, our rural businesses, our communities and our states. On behalf of our farmers and ranchers, we urge you to pass this significant farm policy as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Governor John Hoeven
North Dakota

Governor Chester J. Culver
Iowa

Governor Bob Riley
Alabama

Governor Janet Napolitano
Arizona

Governor Bill Ritter Jr.
Colorado

Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware

Governor Rod Blagojevich
Illinois

Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas

Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota

Governor Dave Heineman
Nebraska

Governor Bill Richardson
New Mexico

Governor Eliot Spitzer
New York

Governor Ted Strickland
Ohio

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski
Oregon

Governor Edward G. Rendell
Pennsylvania

Governor Jim Douglas
Vermont

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Washington

Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin

cc: Chairman Collin Peterson
Chairman Tom Harkin
Ranking member Goodlatte
Ranking member Chambliss