

October 19, 2011

Dear Senator:

We urge you to oppose amendments to the *Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill* that propose to alter or negatively affect the mandatory funding for U.S. farm policies.

As you know, the agriculture appropriations bill, as reported by the committee, fully complies with discretionary spending guidelines.

This is the end of the fourth year of the current five-year farm bill upon which U.S. farmers and ranchers and their lenders have already made financial decisions. Amendments to an appropriations bill that would alter the terms of this contract with our producers are occurring at the wrong time and in the wrong venue.

The Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees earlier this week outlined their plans to participate in deficit reduction efforts in a letter to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. We believe the U.S. Senate should await the results of the ongoing work of this bipartisan, bicameral effort.

Again, we respectfully urge you to oppose all amendments that would alter or reduce mandatory funding for U.S. farm policy in favor of the bipartisan, bicameral efforts to achieve budget savings while maintaining sound U.S. farm policy.

Sincerely,

American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Sugar Cane League  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Farm Credit Council  
Florida Sugar Cane League  
Hawaii Sugar Farmers  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of  
America  
National Association of Professional Insurance  
Agents  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association

National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
US Canola Association  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice Federation  
Western Peanut Growers