

December 02, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As the Senate debates fiscal year 2011 federal funding, the undersigned organizations write to urge your full support for farm bill energy programs.

In the coming months, Congress will begin review and debate regarding reauthorization of farm bill programs, including programs under the energy title. However, programs in the energy title are among the 37 programs that do not have baseline beyond the 2008 Farm Bill. These programs should be allowed to stand on their own performance and merits, but in order to do so they must receive funding to the maximum extent possible.

Now is not the time to downsize our energy security and economic independence goals. As Secretary Vilsack recently said in connection with the Administration's continuing effort to increase clean energy development, "domestic production of renewable energy, including biofuels, is a national imperative . . . we will create jobs, combat global warming, replace our dependence on foreign oil and build a stronger foundation for the 21st century economy."

While there are many excellent programs under your consideration with laudable goals, support for renewable energy production from America's farms, ranches and forestlands has never been more critical as our country seeks greater economic security and energy independence.

We therefore urge you to keep intact the funding for 2008 Farm Bill energy title programs. Shifting this funding now, just as advanced biofuels refineries and other clean energy development projects are taking root, would thwart our nation's economic and environmental goals and hurt rural economies.

We call upon your leadership to keep funding for these important programs intact.

Sincerely,

25x'25 Alliance  
American Coalition for Ethanol  
American Forest Foundation  
American Soybean Association  
Biotechnology Industry Organization

Coskata, Inc.  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Fulcrum BioEnergy, Inc  
Growth Energy  
KL Energy  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Biodiesel Board  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Farmers Union  
National Sorghum Producers  
Renewable Fuels Association