

December 6, 2007

Dear Senator:

We are writing to strongly urge you to complete Senate consideration of the Farm Bill before adjourning for the year.

The 2002 Farm Bill is all but expired. The House acted on its version of the Farm Bill nearly five months ago. But the United States Senate has yet to act on a bipartisan bill unanimously approved by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

While short term extensions of current law that serve as a bridge to a full reauthorization are appreciated, extensions simply do not provide the meaningful, long-term certainty that is absolutely imperative to farm and ranch families across this country nor do extensions address the other critical needs met by the Committee bill.

Most of us refrained from urging Senators to support invoking cloture on the Farm Bill the first time it was considered because we wanted to give the Senate process time to work. But that was nearly a month ago and still there is no sign of progress and no sign that the Senate will take up and complete its work on this must pass legislation prior to adjourning for the year.

Barring any breakthrough, this means that American farmers and ranchers and their lenders will be forced to make serious financial decisions and head into the fields early next year – some as early as February – without the benefit of a safety net or even knowing what the law of the land is. Both timely and critical improvements to conservation, the nutrition needs of children and low income families, as well as important advances in renewable energy would also suffer from further delay.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to complete this critical, must pass legislation before adjourning this year and to do so by whatever procedural means necessary, whether by unanimous consent agreement or cloture. Farm and ranch families, low income families and children, and other pressing needs that would be met by the pending Senate Farm Bill simply cannot afford to wait any longer.

Again, we urge you not to adjourn for the year until this legislation is passed by the United States Senate.

Sincerely yours,

American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Corn Producers Association of Texas
Crop Insurance Professionals Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
US Canola Association
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation