



Oct. 18, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Wheat Growers, I would like to express my appreciation for the recent announcement that you and your colleagues have reached agreement on a general framework for moving a 2007 Farm Bill forward.

While the concerns I have outlined in recent correspondence regarding the framework continue to be worrisome to our members, we are pleased that the framework would provide growers an option between the proposed crop revenue program or the current safety net structure, and that both options include a direct payment program, which is vital to wheat growers.

As you are aware, many provisions of the current farm bill that are important to wheat growers have already expired. Growers throughout the country have already planted their winter wheat and are making important financing, cropping and marketing decisions without any underlying safety net. Wheat growers need a strong farm policy in place as soon as possible.

We look forward to working with you to address our previously mentioned concerns, but we believe it is of utmost importance to move a new farm bill forward without delay and support using the framework agreement as a place to begin that process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing support of the wheat industry. Please feel free to contact me or staff at the NAWG office if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

John Thaumert
President
National Association of Wheat Growers

cc: Senate Committee on Agriculture Members