



Jan. 8, 2008

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Wheat Growers, I would like to thank you for your continued support of American agriculture and encourage you to support efforts in the House and Senate to quickly complete a conference committee on H.R. 2419.

As you are aware, weather conditions over the life of the last farm bill prevented many wheat growers from accessing most of the farm safety net the 2002 bill provided, an issue we believe a new farm bill can address. We are greatly encouraged by the fact that both the House and Senate have now passed version of a new, long-term farm bill with some adjustments to wheat support and the continuation of the direct payment program that has proved so vital to our producers. We also believe that both the House and Senate bills respond to calls for reform from those outside agriculture regarding payment limitations, and we encourage you to oppose efforts by the Administration and others to further lower Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limit tests.

While there has been some pressure for a straight extension of the 2002 Farm Bill, we believe that Congress has the will to pass a new farm bill by March 15, avoiding the loss of significant commodity title baseline that would result from a simple extension. Furthermore, a straight extension of the 2002 Farm Bill would result in the loss of new funding for conservation and nutrition programs is provided in both chambers' bills, thereby eroding strong support for an overall bill.

Stability in many farm communities is hard to come by, and farming, as you know, is extremely risky and cyclical. This is the time of year when farm and ranch families, along with their lenders, begin to make serious financial decisions for the upcoming crop year. With fall planted crops already in the ground and spring-plantings approaching quickly, we cannot overstate the critical importance of completing a new farm bill and having a safety net in place as soon as possible.

We ask for your support in completing a new farm bill swiftly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Thamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Thamer
President