

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chairman  
House Agriculture Committee  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson:

We write to thank you for your effective efforts in negotiating needed changes to the Food Safety Enhancement Act (H.R. 2749) that passed through the Energy and Commerce Committee in June. The improvements made as reflected in the substitute amendment considered by the full House of Representatives in large part address the concerns we raised related to unnecessary Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulatory oversight of grain production operations.

We note in particular our gratitude for your work to ensure that grain production operations are effectively exempted from those safety standards, records access and traceability requirements that were found to be unnecessary to enhance overall food safety.

Though we recognize that there may be some outstanding issues remaining as the legislative process continues, we wish to recognize that your work, and that of your staff, was instrumental in easing our concerns and removing our objections to passage of this bill through the House of Representatives.

Again, thank you for recognizing the unique nature of grain operations and for your successful efforts in fighting for appropriate boundaries related to food safety oversight of our sector.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Soybean Association  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
US Rice Producers Association