

April 19, 2010

Senator Herb Kohl  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

The organizations listed below are writing to express our support for legislation that would protect eligibility for farmer borrowers participating in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteed farm loan programs.

The 2008 Farm Bill suspended borrower term limits on FSA guaranteed farm loan programs through the end of 2010. However, without action by Congress, those term limits would resume on January 1, 2011, immediately making many farmers and ranchers ineligible for additional credit through these programs. We believe that the 2008 Farm Bill's existing eligibility rules should be maintained throughout the life of the Farm Bill. We strongly support the legislation you are proposing.

FSA guaranteed farm loan programs are designed to serve those farmers and ranchers with weaker financial profiles and who would not otherwise qualify for credit. The downturn in prices in several farm sectors and widespread weather disasters of recent years has placed increasing financial hardship on farm families. If abruptly made ineligible for the FSA guaranteed farm loan programs, many of these farm families may simply be unable to continue farming.

Continued access to FSA credit programs is a critical issue for farm families, and we appreciate your strong leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
Farm Credit Council  
Farmer Mac  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
National Association of Credit Specialists of the USDA-Farm Service Agency  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Farmers Union  
National Milk Producers Federation  
USA Rice Federation  
Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)