



National Association of Wheat Growers

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September 2, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman
The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Transmitted via facsimile, email to energycommerce@mail.house.gov, hard copy via mail

Dear Chairman Waxman, Ranking Member Barton, and Members of the Committee:

As the Energy and Commerce Committee begins formal work on a health care bill this month, we wish to communicate with you the requests and goals of wheat growers around the country regarding changes that you may consider. The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) represents wheat producers in twenty states around the country. These operations are all rural businesses, the vast majority family-owned and operated, small in size, but will be significantly impacted by some of the proposals on the table.

Our policy on health care sets forth the following goals:

1. We support allowing farmers to form health insurance purchasing cooperatives. This ability should help provide incentives for reasonable premiums.
2. We support allowing a full deduction from self-employment tax calculations for health insurance premiums paid for self-employed individuals and their families.
3. We oppose any government mandated plan that would require employers to provide basic health insurance for all employees. The cost of this provision would result in much higher costs for farm businesses and would probably lead to a reduction in farm employment.
4. We oppose any government mandated health care plan that would not allow for choice of coverage, plan or providers.

We wish you success in the upcoming weeks of hard work on this important issue, and invite you to contact us if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Karl Scronce
President