

June 30, 2010

Dear House Agriculture Committee Member:

The undersigned groups urge you to oppose the Rooney-Baca amendment to H.R. 4645, the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act. The amendment would strike Section 2 of the legislation that currently removes the travel ban toward Cuba. In April of this year, almost 100 representative groups of America's agriculture and agribusiness community, the broader business community and other NGOs urged members of Congress to support H.R. 4645 without amendments.

This bill would indeed allow U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba, consistent with their ability to do so to every other country, including other U.S. sanctioned countries. Separate studies by both the U.S. International Trade Commission and more recently by Texas A&M University conclude significant benefits to U.S. agriculture as a result of the changes made by the bill. Texas A&M University estimates that lifting these travel restrictions alone will increase U.S. agricultural sales to Cuba in the long term by \$336 million per year, creating up to 5,500 new jobs.

The Agriculture Committee should not singlehandedly decrease the value of this opportunity for American agriculture exports. Please vote to support H.R. 4645 without amendments.

Sincerely,

Alamar Associates
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
Arkansas Rice Federation
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
Cargill
Center for Democracy in the Americas
Citizen's Network for Foreign Affairs
Corn Producers Association of Texas
Greater Houston Partnership
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
Latin America Working Group
Louisiana Independent Rice Producers Association
Louisiana Rice Growers Association
Louisiana Rice Producers' Group
Mississippi Rice Council
Missouri Rice Council
Missouri Rice Producers' Group
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Millers' Association
Port Freeport
Port of Corpus Christi
Port of Galveston
Port of Houston Authority
Port of Lake Charles, Louisiana
Rice Producers of California
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Forestry Association
Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Texas Rice Council
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group
Texas Wheat Producers Association
The Americas Group
TriDimension Strategies, LLC
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Dry Bean Council
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
USA*Engage
Washington Office on Latin America