



## **Thune highlights ag groups' support of Murkowski resolution to curb EPA authority**

**By Agri-Pulse Staff**

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Washington, Jan. 21 – Senator John Thune (R-SD) has highlighted a letter sent by agricultural groups across the nation expressing support for a Senate resolution of disapproval under the terms of the Congressional Review Act offered by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Thursday. The resolution formally states the Senate's disapproval of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) endangerment finding, which Thune charges "would pave the way for expensive regulations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. If Congress approves a resolution of disapproval, it would effectively stop the EPA from moving forward with regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses."

"Agriculture groups in South Dakota and across the country are tuned in to just how damaging this rule will be for agricultural producers," said Thune. "The EPA is unilaterally going around Congress in drafting new carbon dioxide regulations and is attempting to use a law written 20 years ago for an entirely different purpose. Congress must act to block this backdoor tax on energy intensive industries like agriculture."

The letter is signed by 138 agricultural groups nationwide, including the South Dakota Agri-Business Association, the South Dakota Farm Bureau, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, the South Dakota Grain and Feed Association, South Dakota Wheat, Inc., and the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. Senator Thune plans to cosponsor the Murkowski resolution of disapproval. The full text of the letter follows:

January 20, 2010  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The agricultural organizations listed below support your introduction of a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act regarding the decision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move forward on regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Such regulatory actions will

carry severe consequences for the U.S. economy, including America's farmers and ranchers, through increased input costs and international market disparities.

Both the current and past Administrations have acknowledged that the CAA is not the appropriate vehicle for establishing greenhouse gas policy. However, this EPA finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare will trigger CAA regulatory actions such as application of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, New Source Performance Standards, and provisions of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V programs, essentially establishing greenhouse gas policy through the CAA by default. The compliance costs for these CAA programs would be overwhelming as millions of entities, including farms and ranches, would be subject to burdensome CAA regulations. While EPA has attempted to craft a "tailoring rule" to ease such a burden, our experience in these matters is that attempts to administratively relax environmental requirements are routinely challenged in court.

The EPA rule itself claims to establish only a weak, indirect link between greenhouse gases and public health and welfare, going so far as to admit there are uncertainties over the net, direct health impacts of the greenhouse gases it is attempting to regulate. Further, EPA Administrator Jackson recently acknowledged that unilateral actions by the United States would have no material impact on global warming. China and India, two of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, continue to reject any verifiable reduction measures. Without an effective international agreement on emission reductions, unilateral action by the U.S. only serves to further damage our economy and encourage businesses to relocate. EPA's finding puts the agricultural economy at grave risk based on allegations of a weak, indirect link to public health and welfare and despite the lack of any environmental benefit.

For these reasons, we strongly support your efforts to prevent EPA from moving forward with its endangerment finding and urge Senate approval of your resolution.

Sincerely,

Alabama Soybean Assoc.  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Assoc.  
American Hereford Assoc.  
American Mushroom Institute  
American National CattleWomen  
American Nursery and Landscape Assoc.  
American Soybean Assoc.  
American Sugarbeet Growers Assoc.  
Arizona Cattle Feeders Assoc.  
Arkansas Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
Arkansas Soybean Assoc.  
Blue Diamond Growers  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton Ginners Assoc.  
California Cotton Growers Assoc.  
California Grape & Tree Fruit League  
Colorado Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Colorado Livestock Assoc.

Colorado Potato Administrative Committee  
Corn Producers Assoc. of Texas  
Cotton Warehouse Assoc. of America  
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.  
Delta Council  
Florida Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Assoc.  
Georgia Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Assoc.  
Idaho Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Illinois Beef Assoc.  
Independent Cattlemen's Assoc. of Texas  
Iowa Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Iowa Soybean Assoc.  
Kansas Cotton Assoc.  
Kansas Livestock Assoc.  
Kansas Soybean Assoc.  
Kentucky Soybean Assoc.

Louisiana Cotton and Grain Assoc.  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Rice Producers' Group  
Louisiana Rice Growers Assoc.  
Maryland Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Michigan Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Minnesota Corn Growers Assoc.  
Minnesota Soybean Assoc.  
Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Missouri Soybean Assoc.  
Montana Stockgrower's Assoc.  
National Assoc. of Wheat Growers  
National Cattlemen's Beef Assoc.  
National Chicken Council  
National Corn Growers Assoc.  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Renderers Assoc.  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Corn Growers Assoc.  
Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Assoc.  
Nebraska Soybean Assoc.  
Nebraska Wheat Board  
Nebraska Wheat Growers Assoc.  
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Assoc.  
New Mexico Federal Lands Council  
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Assoc.  
North Carolina Peanut Growers Assoc.  
Ohio Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Ohio Soybean Assoc.  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Oregon Assoc. of Nurseries  
Oregon Potato Commission  
Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Assoc.  
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Sandyland Water Conservation District  
Select Milk Producers  
SJV Quality Cotton Growers Assoc.  
Society of American Florists  
South Dakota Agri-Business Assoc.  
South Dakota Farm Bureau  
South Dakota Cattlemen's Assoc.  
South Dakota Grain & Feed Assoc.

South Dakota Wheat Inc.  
South Dakota Corn Growers Assoc.  
South East Dairy Farmers Assoc.  
Southeastern Livestock Network  
South Texas Cotton and Grain Assoc., Inc.  
Southern Cotton Growers  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Assoc., Inc.  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Sunkist Growers  
Texas Agriculture Cooperative Council  
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assoc.  
Texas Assoc. of Agriculture Consultants  
Texas Assoc. of Dairymen  
Texas Cattle Feeders Assoc.  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
Texas Cotton Ginner Assoc.  
Texas Independent Ginners Assoc.  
Texas Food Producers Assoc.  
Texas Forestry Assoc.  
Texas Grain & Feed Assoc.  
Texas Nursery and Landscape Assoc.  
Texas Pest Management Assoc.  
Texas Pork Producers  
Texas Poultry Federation  
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group  
Texas Seed Trade Assoc.  
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Assoc.  
Texas Soybean Assoc.  
Texas Vegetable Assoc.  
Texas Wheat Producers Assoc.  
Tennessee Soybean Assoc.  
The Family Farm Alliance  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Assoc.  
United States Beet Sugar Assoc.  
U.S. Apple Assoc.  
U.S. Rice Producers Assoc.  
USA Rice Federation  
Utah Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Virginia Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Virginia Peanut Growers Assoc.  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Western Growers  
Western Agricultural Processors Assoc.  
Western Peanut Growers Assoc.  
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Assoc.  
Wisconsin Soybean Assoc.

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