

February 10, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Stabenow and Roberts and Representatives Lucas and Peterson:

The 2012 farm bill is among the most important pieces of legislation the U.S. Congress will consider this year. We the undersigned have heard calls for an extension of current law. We ask you to reject these calls for delay and aggressively act to ensure that a new, comprehensive farm bill is passed this year.

Farmers need a safety net that works more effectively, and they need access to tools that help them be good stewards of our natural resources. The farm bill also provides essential resources to prevent hunger, which is especially critical during these tough economic times. The bill also addresses short and long-term job creation through streamlined and targeted rural economic development policies and investments in agricultural research.

A temporary extension of current policy creates tremendous uncertainty while serving to further none of these needs. We, therefore, stand ready to help you in an effort to pass a full, comprehensive reauthorization of the farm bill this year, without needless delay or disruption.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farmland Trust  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Association of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Board on Agriculture Assembly of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Community Food Security Coalition  
Council for Agricultural Science & Technology (CAST)

CropLife America  
Crop Life & Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Science Society of America  
Ducks Unlimited  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy  
Fair Food Network  
Green for All  
Housing Assistance Council  
Institute of Food Technologists  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Land Trust Alliance  
League of Rural Voters  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
National Agricultural Biotechnology Council (NABC)  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils  
National Association of Towns and Townships  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Audubon Society  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NCBI)  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference  
National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Farmers Union  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Organic Coalition  
National Rural Health Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Telecommunications Cooperative Association  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Wildlife Federation  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Organic Trade Association  
Partners for Rural America  
Pheasants Forever  
Pollinator Partnership

Quail Forever  
Rain and Hail  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
Rural Community Insurance Services  
Slow Food USA  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wildlife Society  
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
USA Dry Bean & Lentil Council  
US Canola Association  
US Composting Council  
US Rice Producers Association  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Western Society of Weed Science  
World Wildlife Fund

cc: The Honorable John Boehner  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Members of House and Senate Agriculture Committees