

July 26, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Lucas, and Ranking Members Cochran and Peterson:

The undersigned organizations represent producers of crops that are being grown on 176.4 million acres, or 65 percent of total U.S. crops planted in 2013. We understand that Conferees on the 2013 Farm Bill may not be named and a formal Conference convened until after the August Congressional recess. In the interim, we would like to make clear our position on provisions to be included in a price-risk program in Title 1.

A new farm bill must not include a program which ties planted acres to Congressionally-fixed reference or target prices. Such a program would distort planting decisions in years when prices fall below support levels, resulting in surplus production of certain commodities, reduced acreage for smaller crops, depressed domestic and international market prices, and potential WTO actions against the U.S. The prospect of these consequences is unacceptable and, as a result, we will oppose a farm bill that includes this provision.

Our organizations have other priorities in both of your bills that we strongly support and want to see reauthorized in a new five-year farm bill. However, we want to again emphasize the importance of this issue, and to encourage you to work during the coming weeks to find a way to provide price-risk protection that will be acceptable to all concerned.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you to bring the farm bill process to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely yours,

American Soybean Association
National Corn Growers Association
U.S. Canola Association

cc. Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, United States Senate
Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of Representatives
Members, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, United States Senate
Members, Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives