

April 29, 2008

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

We write today to urge you to hold a hearing on agriculture's role in climate change legislation. As you know, Majority Leader Reid announced his intention to bring *S. 2191, America's Climate Security Act of 2007* up for floor consideration in June.

Agriculture can play a significant role in helping the United States address climate change through storing carbon on agricultural lands, as well as capturing greenhouse gases on livestock facilities. The extent of benefits to agriculture hinge upon the legislative details to be resolved surrounding a cap-and-trade system, mitigation requirements and the functioning of relative credit markets.

Agriculture provides one of the only readily available and easily deployable means of achieving near-term greenhouse gas emission offsets on a significant scale. The United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimate agricultural soils have the potential to sequester enough carbon to offset 20 percent of the United States annual emissions.

Specifically, we urge the Senate Agriculture Committee to look at how best to craft a carbon sequestration offset program to maximize agriculture's participation, the potential impact of a mandatory program on agricultural inputs, and the benefits to agriculture.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you on these issues.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Soybean Association
Georgia Pecan Growers Association
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Association
USA Rice Federation