

Individually addressed to each Senator

May 21, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow:

Last week, we all reached a milestone during consideration of the 2013 Farm Bill by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. A historic compromise, bringing together agriculture, conservation, environmental and crop insurance groups, passed the Committee with bipartisan support.

The 34 undersigned organizations support the agreement offered in the Manager's Amendment by Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) to provide an effective farm and natural resource safety net. The agreement links conservation compliance with crop insurance premium assistance and opposes means testing, payment limitations or premium subsidy reductions for the crop insurance program.

In the spirit of compromise and in the interest of completing a 2013 Farm Bill this year, each of the undersigned groups has committed to oppose amendments on the Senate floor that might weaken the crop insurance program or amendments that might not link conservation compliance with crop insurance premium assistance.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to review the agreement or answer any questions. We ask that you join us in opposing any amendments that might weaken the agreement adopted by the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Sincerely,
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Audubon
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Science Society of America
Ducks Unlimited

Environmental Defense Fund
Land Improvement Contractors of America
National Association of State Conservation Agencies
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Conservation District Employees Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Wildlife Federation
Pheasants Forever
Pollinator Partnership
Quail Forever
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Nature Conservancy
USA Rice Federation
Wildlife Mississippi
World Wildlife Fund