

Farm Bill Energy Title Support Letter

April 29, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Stabenow and Cochran and Representatives Lucas and Peterson:

As you know, diverse agricultural energy technologies such as advanced biofuels, biogas, bioproducts, biopower, energy crops, wind, solar and energy efficiency are poised for further strong growth. These technologies already make great contributions to the nation's economic, environmental and energy security and will continue to do so in the coming years, provided that Congress maintains stable and successful policies that support their continued development and commercialization. America needs a new Farm Bill passed as soon as possible, with a strong Energy Title that includes robust mandatory funding.

The Energy Title programs contained in the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills are vital components in the continued growth of these industries. Programs like the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP) and Biobased Markets Program (Biopreferred) strongly support American agriculture and ensure broad public benefits to the entire country. Since some of these programs just got started, the next five years will be crucial for achieving success.

These programs are quite unique and are integral to a new Farm Bill. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is well prepared to continue their significant progress in advancing renewable energy, energy efficiency and biobased products for the agricultural, energy and forestry sectors.

Since 2009, thousands of direct and indirect jobs have been created or saved in rural areas by the Farm Bill's Energy Title programs that benefitted almost 12,000 rural small businesses, agricultural producers, and advanced biofuel refineries across the country. This economic growth is occurring from a modest amount of federal money that leverages billions of dollars in private investment. Continued growth in new agriculture, manufacturing, and high tech jobs are at great risk without continued Federal investment.

The outstanding benefits of Energy Title programs flow from a very modest investment. They accounted for only 0.7 percent of overall spending in the 2008 Farm Bill. As longstanding agricultural safety net

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programs come under increasing budgetary pressure, these energy investments create new opportunities for producers and rural communities to cut input costs and further diversify their income.

We recognize the fiscal challenges facing your committees as a new Farm Bill is drafted this year. However, for the reasons noted above, we urge you to ensure the vital Energy Title programs are re-authorized and afforded significant mandatory funding over the life of the legislation, matching or exceeding the \$800 million over five years in the Senate Farm Bill passed last year. Helping to grow the economy with these cost effective and transformative programs will ease fiscal challenges in the years ahead while simultaneously addressing other critical national priorities. Polls show these policies are very popular with the American people.

We commend you for your leadership on all of these important issues and pledge to work with you to craft farm and energy policies that work for all of agriculture, clean energy industries and America.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

25x'25 Alliance

ACEEE - American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Advanced Biofuels Association

Advanced Biofuels USA

Advanced Ethanol Council

Ag Energy Coalition

Airlines for America

Algal Biomass Organization

American Biogas Council

American Coalition for Ethanol

American Corn Growers Institute for Public Policy

American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE)

American Security Action Fund

American Wind Energy Association

Association of State Energy Research Institutions

Bio Feedstock Industry Association

Biomass Power Association

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Distributed Wind Energy Association

Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Forest Landowners Association

Growth Energy

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Conservation Districts

National Association of State Energy Officials

National Center for Appropriate Technology

National Farmers Union

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

National Sorghum Producers

Renewable Fuels Association

Solar Energy Industries Association

Windustry

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Regional and State Organizations

Adams Electric Cooperative
Agricultural Leaders of Michigan
Alabama Agribusiness Council
Alabama Environmental Council
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
BayBio
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
BIOCOM
BioForward
Biofuels Center of North Carolina
Blackbelt Cooperative of Alabama
Clean Energy Group
Clean Up the River Environment
Climate Solutions
Colorado Harvesting Energy Network
Dakota Rural Action
Delaware Interfaith Power and Light
East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Florida BioFuels & Energy Association, Inc.
Fresh Energy
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Bio
Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association
Green State Solutions
Hoosier Environmental Council
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization -
iBIO(R)
Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Iowa Renewable Energy Association
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association
Iowa Solar/Small Wind Energy Trade
Association
Iowa Wind Energy Association
Kentucky Governor's Office of Agricultural
Policy
LifeScience Alley
Maine Interfaith Power & Light
Memphis Bioworks Foundation, Regional
AgBioworks Initiative
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
MichBio
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan Land Use Institute
Midwest Energy Alternatives Project
Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council
Mississippi Association of RC&D Councils
Mississippi Biomass and Renewable Energy
Council
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Solar Energy Society
Missouri Dairy Association
Missouri Energy Initiative
Missouri Forest Products Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Nebraska Ethanol Board
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
North Carolina Association of Professional
Loggers
North Carolina Biosciences Organization
North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric
Cooperatives
Northwest SEED
Pennsylvania Biomass Energy Association
Powder River Basin Resource Council
RENEW Wisconsin
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rural Advantage
Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative
South Carolina Biomass Council
South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance
South Dakota Biotech Association
South Dakota Renewable Energy Association
Southeast Agriculture & Forestry Energy
Resources Alliance (SAFER)
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance

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Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)
Strategic Biomass Solutions
Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic
Development Council
Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association
The Catfish Institute
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
Virginia Forest Products Association
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Windependence