

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2013

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

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
192 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Stabenow and Lucas and Ranking Members Cochran and Peterson:

As you move ahead on the farm bill conference, we respectfully request that you consider the importance of the energy title (Title IX). The energy title's core programs support diverse renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, enhance our nation's domestic energy portfolio, and promote the growth of rural economies. We urge you to provide the necessary investments so that these programs can continue to succeed.

Passage of a five-year farm bill is vital to give our farmers and ranchers the long-term certainty they need to remain the most productive in the world. In today's agricultural economy, ag-based energy products are increasingly beneficial to both producers and consumers. By setting conditions that allow farmers, ranchers, and innovative small businesses to invest in producing renewable ag-based energy sources, energy title programs strengthen the rural economy and allow for the creation of good jobs right here in America.

For example, the Rural Energy for America (REAP) program supports every type of renewable energy technology, including wind, solar, biomass, biogas, and hydroelectric power in all 50 states. Additionally, farmers save thousands on their bottom line costs through energy efficiency projects supported by REAP. The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) partners with hundreds of farmers across the country to develop sustainable new biofuels and other products from non-food crops, providing farmers with additional farm income and producing next-generation energy sources. The Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP) also enables the production of cutting edge advanced biofuels by supporting next generation biorefinery development.

REAP, BCAP and BAP are just three examples of energy title programs that are helping our nation utilize our rich agricultural capacity to produce reliable domestic energy. American farmers have long led the world in food crop production, but as we seek to become more energy independent and less reliant on foreign sources of energy to power our economy, ag-based energy products are increasingly important; energy title programs significantly enhance the development of our nation's clean energy and agriculture economy.

We understand that you face a difficult task in meeting budget challenges in the farm bill, but we must emphasize the importance of these programs to keeping our economy moving forward and supporting job creation. These cost-effective, bi-partisan investments cannot be overstated, as they represent a growing and beneficial part of the agricultural economy. We encourage you to make the necessary investments in the energy title's programs and thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

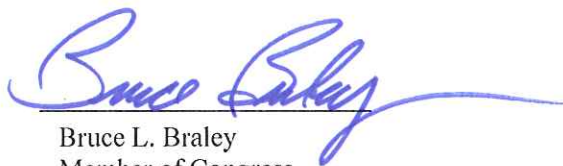
Respectfully,




Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



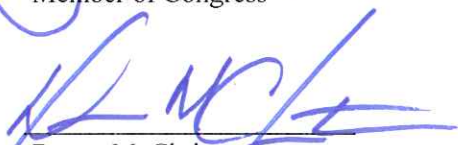
Dave Loebsack
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Bruce L. Braley
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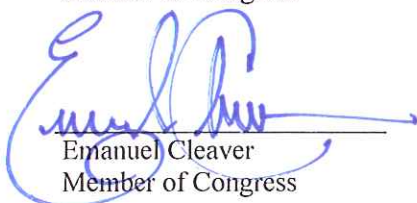

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

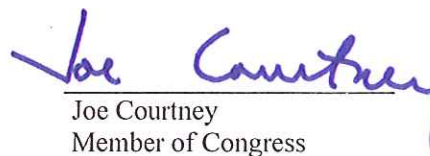

G.K. Butterfield
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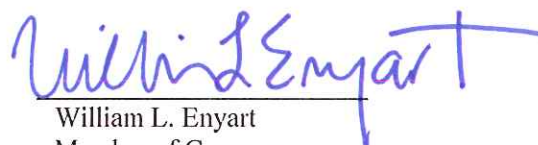

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

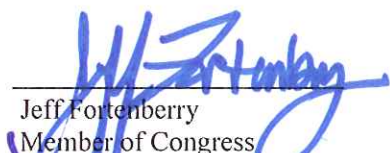

Judy Chu
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Emanuel Cleaver
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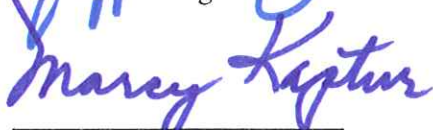

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

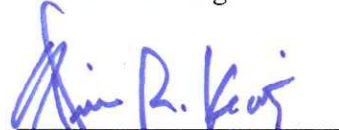

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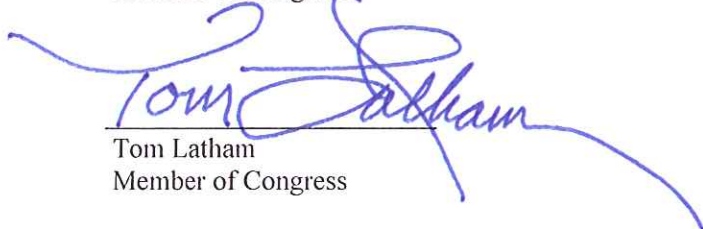

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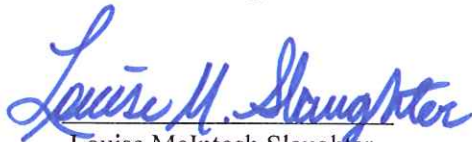

Tom Latham
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Michael H. Michaud
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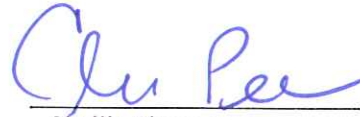

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

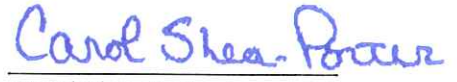

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