

Farm Bill Energy Title Support Letter

November 4, 2013

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

The Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate
113 Dirksen 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 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:

We are writing to urge your support for a five year Farm Bill including re-authorization and \$900 million in mandatory funding of the Farm Bill's energy title.

The U.S. is experiencing strong growth in the development and commercialization of biofuels, bioproducts, biopower, biogas, energy crops, renewable energy, renewable chemicals and energy efficiency. These important and growing industries all benefit agriculture and forestry and are poised to make huge contributions to our economic, environmental and national security in the coming years, provided that we maintain stable policies that support clean energy manufacturing and innovation.

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. Every single state has benefited from these low-cost, high return programs. Since some programs are just getting started, the next five years will be crucial for achieving success.

Many tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs are being created or saved in rural areas by our nation's expanding clean energy economy. This growth is occurring due in large part to Farm Bill energy programs, which have used a modest amount of federal money to leverage billions of dollars in private investment. These new agriculture, manufacturing, and high technology jobs are at risk without continued Federal investment.

The outstanding benefits of Energy Title programs also 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 programs lose funding or end, these energy investments create new opportunities for producers and rural communities to further cut input costs and diversify their income.

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We recognize the fiscal challenges facing your committees as a new Farm Bill is completed this year. However, for all of 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. We believe the Senate's bi-partisan investment must be preserved. Helping to grow the economy in these low-cost, but transformative ways will help ease the fiscal challenge in the years ahead while also addressing other critical national challenges.

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 rural America.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

National Groups

25 x 25 Alliance
Advanced Biofuels Association
Advanced Biofuels USA
Agriculture Energy Coalition
American Agriculture Movement
American Biogas Council
American Coalition for Ethanol
American Coalition On Renewable Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy: ACEEE
American Security Action Fund
American Corn Growers Association
American Soybean Association
American Wind Energy Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Bio Feedstock Industry Association
Biomass Power Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Center for Rural Affairs
Distributed Wind Energy Association
Energy Future Coalition
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
The Geothermal Exchange Organization
Growth Energy
International District Energy Association
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Corn Growers Association

National Farmers Union
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Renewable Fuels Association
Solar Energy Industries Association

State and Regional Groups

Alabama Agribusiness Council
Alabama Environmental Council
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Alliance for Clean Energy New York
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
Biocom
BioEnergyComparators
BioForward
BlackBelt Cooperative
California Interfaith Power & Light
Clean Energy Group
Colorado Harvesting Energy Network
Connecticut Interfaith Power & Light
Dakota Rural Action
Delaware Interfaith Power and Light
East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Eureka Springs Citizens Climate Action Committee
Florida Biofuels & Bioenergy Association, Inc.
Fresh Energy
Friends of the Chattahoochee

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Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia BIO
Georgia Corn Growers Association
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light
Geothermal Alliance of Illinois
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy
Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association
Green State Solutions
Hoosier Environmental Council
Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light
Houston County Forestry Association
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Interfaith Power & Light
Interwest Energy Alliance
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Geothermal Association
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Iowa Renewable Energy Association
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association
Iowa Solar/Small Wind Energy Trade Association
Iowa Wind Energy Association
Kansas Interfaith Power & Light
KansasBio
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light
Kentucky Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy
Louisiana Forest Products Development Center
Main Line Unitarian Congregation Climate Action Team
Maine Rural Partners
MichBio
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Biomass
Michigan Forest Products Council
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
Michigan Land Use Institute
Midwest Energy Alternatives Project
Mississippi Association of RC&D Councils
Mississippi Biomass and Renewable Energy Council
Mississippi Poultry Association
Missouri Farmers Union
Missouri Soybean Association
NCWoodlands
Nebraska Ethanol Board
Nebraska Ethanol Industry Coalition
Nebraska Farmers Union
Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light
New England Clean Energy Council
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
New York Interfaith Power & Light
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North Carolina Association of Professional Loggers, Inc.
North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
Northwest SEED
Oklahoma City University
Pennsylvania Biomass Energy Association
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
RENEW Wisconsin
Renewable Northwest Project
Rural Advantage
Rural Electric Convenience Co-op
South Carolina Biomass Council
South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance
South Dakota Biotech
South East Alliance for Agriculture and Forest Energy Resources
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)
Strategic Biomass Solutions
Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council
Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council
Texas Poultry Federation
Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association
Utah Clean Energy
Utah Interfaith Power & Light
Valley 25x'25
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
Virginia Forest Products Association
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington State University
Windustry