August 24, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Russell 328A Senate Office Building
Washington, DC  20510

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

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Agriculture Committee Leaders and conferees:

As you begin the conference on the new farm bill we urge you to reauthorize and maintain full mandatory funding for energy title programs. Continuing a healthy, robust bipartisan energy title is essential to new comprehensive agriculture legislation. We strongly support the Senate’s energy title, as passed, and ask that it be adopted, in a final bill.

Farm bill energy title programs bring significant investment and opportunity to rural America, providing producers with new revenue sources, promoting development in clean, renewable energy, biobased products, and making energy efficiency investments. Due to federal leadership rural economic development, jobs, manufacturing, and environmental quality have all seen quantifiable and substantial gains.

All of this happened with an incredibly modest, cost-effective investment. Energy title programs account for less than one-tenth-of-one-percent of farm bill spending and yet provide outsized benefits. For example, more than 17,000 projects and counting have been cost-shared across the United States -- in every state -- with more than $5 billion leveraged since the energy title’s inception. Public/private investments through farm energy and biobased economy programs are generating sorely needed innovation and growth opportunities for rural America.

For America’s farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to continue to be leaders in the development and the advancement of the clean energy economy, it is critical the final 2018 Farm Bill reauthorizes programs such as the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product
Manufacturing Assistance Program; the Biomarkets program; the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP); the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI); the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP); and Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels, again with mandatory funding as passed by the Senate.

The programs, as improved in the Senate, can continue to unleash greater benefits. For example, the Biorefinery Assistance Program is opened fully to standalone renewable chemical technologies, enabling innovative companies to participate and grow the biobased economy. An expanded BCAP will continue to support innovative biomass energy development and sustainably address hazardous fuels reduction efforts in our nation’s forests. REAP remains a flagship program in the title bringing direct energy and efficiency investments to farmers, ranchers and rural small business in every state.

Energy title programs provide the means for ag-based entrepreneurs to launch initiatives to generate jobs and economic development – from wind, geothermal, hydro and solar power, to biogas and advanced biofuels, to biopower, biobased products, renewable chemicals, and energy efficiency. The energy title has enabled our farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to become more self-sufficient, and bring high-value products to market not only here in the United States, but around the world.

Given pressing needs in rural America and the great promise of a new, comprehensive farm bill, we urge you to adopt the Senate passed energy title, with full mandatory funding. Thank you for your continued leadership on these issues which are so important to your respective states and rural communities across the country.

Sincerely,

Associations and Organizations
Agriculture Energy Coalition
25x25
Advanced Biofuels USA
Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)
Aireg - Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy in Germany
Algae Biomass Organization
American Biogas Council
American Coalition for Ethanol
American Soybean Association
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
Biocom
Biomass Power Association
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
California Biomass Energy Alliance
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Forestry Association
Center for Rural Affairs
Clean Energy Economy Minnesota
Clean Fuels Development Coalition
Corn Refiners Association
Distributed Wind Energy Association
Energy Alabama
Energy Management Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Law & Policy Center
GC3 Sustainable Chemistry Alliance
Geothermal Alliance of IL
Growth Energy
Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association
ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute
Induslatin
Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology
Iowa Biotechnology Assn.
Kentucky Poultry Federation
MichBio
Michigan Biomass
Mississippi Biomass & Renewable Energy Council
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Mississippi Poultry Association
Missouri Dairy Association
Missouri Farmers Union
National Biodiesel Board
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Rural Lenders Association
NC Clean Energy Technology Center
Renewable Fuels Association
RNG Coalition
Rural Jobs Coalition
South Carolina Biomass Council
South Dakota Biotech Association
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
The Geothermal Exchange Organization
University of Illinois, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
Washington State University
Windustry
Wisconsin Energy Institute

**Companies**
Aemetis, Inc.
Aequor, Inc.
Ag-Grid Energy
Agricultural Engineering Associates, Inc.
Agrilectric Power Partners, LP
Agrivida Inc.
AGT NUTRACEUTICALS LLC
Algenol Biotech
AlgEternal Technologies, LLC
ALGIX, LLC
Aliga Microalgae
ALLETE / Minnesota Power
Aloterra Energy LLC
Altex Technologies Corporation
American Renewable Power
AMSEnergy.com
Amyris
Andigen AG
Anellotech
AnGee & Sons Inc.
ARA
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Arzeda Corporation
AstaReal Inc
Beehive Ventures Group
Bergey Wind
BioAmber
BioBlend Renewable Resources, LLC
BioFiber Solutions International
BioGas Corp
Biomass One, LP
BioWorks Energy LLC
BladeRunner Energy
BloomCo AZ
Blue Marble Biomaterials
Boie Biogas, LLC
BTR Energy, Benefit LLC
Buffalo Renewables Inc
Byogy Renewables
Calysta, Inc.
Capture Your CO2
Cargill
Cellana LLC
CMD Corporation
Columbia Biogas
Critical Path Engineering Solutions
Danimer Scientific
Deinove
Dialytics, Inc.
Digester Doc
Domtar Biomaterials
DSM
DuPont Industrial Biosciences
Eagle Valley Clean Energy, LLC
Earth Energy Renewables
Earth-bio Restoration, LLC
Earthrise Nutritionals LLC
ECOCORP
Eisenmann Corporation
Elevance Renewable Sciences
Evergreen Clean Energy Corporation
Farm and Alchemy
Field Phyto-Nutrients
FPN LLC
Full Circle Renewables
Genesis Industrial Group
Genomatica
Gevo Incorporated
Gills Onions LLC
Global Algae Innovations Inc
Global Biofuture Solutions Inc
Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Authority
Greater Commercial Lending
Greater Nevada Credit Union
Green Biologies, Inc.
Green Plains Inc.
Green State Solutions
Greenleaf Power
Gross-Wen Technologies Inc.
Horti-Group USA, LLC
Houff Corporation
I+A Ingeniería Aplicada
ICM Inc.
IHI Power Generation Corp.
Industrial Microbes
Intellectual Energy LLC
Itaconix Corp.
Jolliff Farm
Juliette P Bohn Consulting
Kegotank Farm
KFR Tech, LLC
LanzaTech
Igepower Inc.
Live Oak Bank
Longitude 122 West, Inc.
Manna Fish Farms, Inc.
Marine BioEnergy, Inc.
MicroBio Engineering Inc.
Midwest Wealth Ventures, LLC
Michigan Biotechnology Institute
Modular Genetics
Namaka Algae
NatureWorks
Northern Power Systems
Novo Biopower
Novozymes North America Inc.
Opabioegas
Organic Waste Systems, Inc.
Pacific Neurophysiologists
Pacific Sun Energy
Papirichie Energy
Phycosource
Phytonix
Planet Found Energy Development
POET
POET-DSM Advanced Biofuels
Positive Energy Alternatives, LLC
Praj Matrix
Primordial Genetics
Protec Fuel Management
QBM Management, Inc
Qualitas Health Inc.
Quasar Energy Group
RCM International LLC
Redwood Innovation Partners LLC
ReEnergy Holdings LLC
ReGenis
Renewable Energy Group, Inc.
Renewable Organics Infrastructure
Renewable Organics Management LLC
Renmatix, Inc.
Reverdia
Roeslein Alternative Energy
Salish Seaweeds
SALVITECH
San Domingo Ranch
Seedling LLC
Seminole Financial Services
Sevana bioenergy
Sidel Global Environmental
Sirrus Chemistry
Smith - Mensch Energy, Inc.
Solid Rock Masonry
Standart Ltd.
Steeper Energy APS (Denmark)
Steeper Energy Canada Ltd
Strategic Management Group
Superior Process Technologies
Syngenta
SYNGULON
Synthetic Genomics, Inc.
T2 Energy
Target Renewables Ltd
Tate&Lyle
The Stella Group, Ltd.
Thiru Viswanathan c/o Mars- Wrigley
Triton Algae Innovations
Twist Bioscience
United Wind
Vanguard Industries
V SOURCE INTERNATIONAL INC
Velocys
Westar Trade Resources
West Range Forest Products
White Oak Power LLC
Xylome
ZuChem