

# 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

## Farm Bill Energy Title Support Letter

---

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

## Farm Bill Energy Title Support Letter

---

### 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

## **Farm Bill Energy Title Support Letter**

---

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