

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 5, 2007

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
House Appropriations Committee  
2362-A Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Lewis, and Ranking Member Kingston:

Many regions of our nation have been hit exceptionally hard by natural disasters this year, placing our nation's farmers and ranchers in a precarious economic position. Severe drought and catastrophic wildfires in the Northwest, drought in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, freezing temperatures and floods in the Midwest, extreme heat in the Northern Plains, and tropical storms in the Gulf Coast are just some examples of the hardships our nation's agriculture producers are enduring this year.

As a result of these disasters and their widespread impacts, it is imperative that the federal government, and in particular the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, step forward and provide assistance. Thus, we respectfully request that you consider including the following provisions in any upcoming emergency supplemental legislation.

The current cut-off date for the livestock and crop disaster assistance programs established in the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-28) is February 28, 2007. Unfortunately, this deadline leaves many agriculture producers who have experienced economic losses during this turbulent year without a safety net. Therefore, we ask the Committee to extend the eligibility date for agriculture disaster aid programs, specifically the Crop Disaster Program, the Livestock Compensation Program, and the Livestock Indemnity Program, to December 31, 2007. Extending this date will allow the USDA to effectively and efficiently administer disaster aid to those farmers and ranchers who have endured natural disasters since the February cut-off date.

Furthermore, it is equally important that additional resources are made available to the USDA to administer these much-needed agriculture disaster assistance programs in a timely manner. Such timely assistance makes a significant difference in the lives of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

We look forward to working with you to provide farmers and ranchers the adequate financial assistance that is necessary at this time, and we appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Best regards,

  
GREG WALDEN  
Member of Congress

  
SANFORD BISHOP  
Member of Congress

  
MIKE SIMPSON  
Member of Congress

  
BOB GOODLATTE  
Member of Congress

  
RICK BOUCHER  
Member of Congress

  
TODD TIAHRT  
Member of Congress

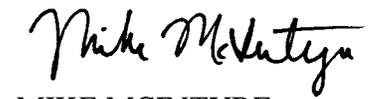
  
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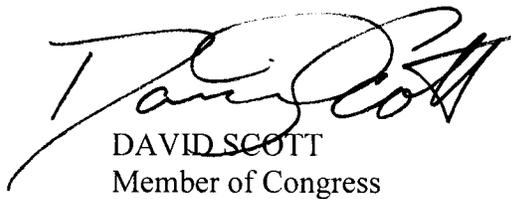
  
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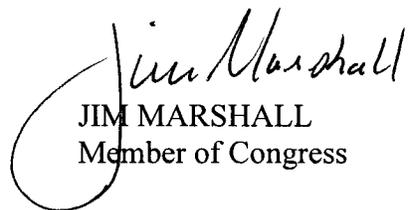
  
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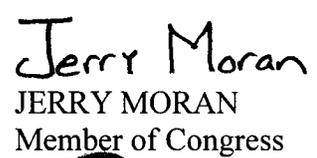
  
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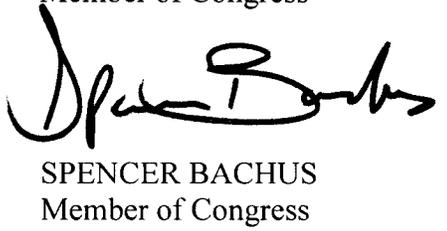
  
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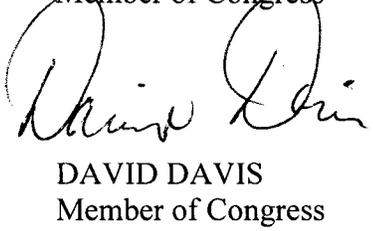
  
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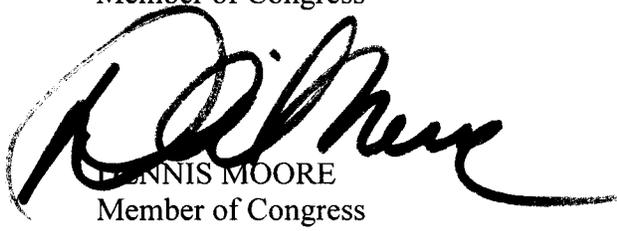
  
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BART GORDON  
Member of Congress

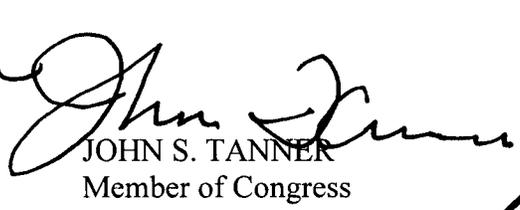
  
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SPENCER BACHUS  
Member of Congress

  
DAVID DAVIS  
Member of Congress

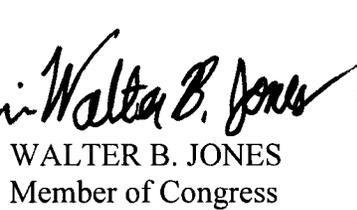
  
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Member of Congress

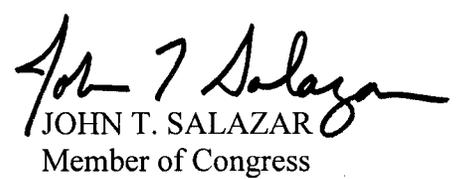
  
BARBARA CUBIN  
Member of Congress

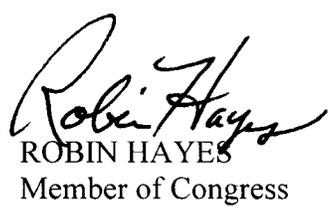
  
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Member of Congress

  
ADRIAN SMITH  
Member of Congress

  
WALLY HERGER  
Member of Congress

  
CHRIS CANNON  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Robert Bennett, Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee