Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2003

The Honorable Marc I. Grossman
Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Grossman:

We are writing to advise you of a unique opportunity to benefit the American farmer, the new evolving Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people. During the past 15 years under the Saddam Hussein regime, it was virtually impossible for American wheat to be exported to Iraq. Free-market conditions did not exist even under the UN Oil for Food Program. Now with a new democratic government evolving in Iraq, we would expect the Iraq government to make its wheat purchases as most other countries now do; based on quality, delivery and competitive prices in the world wheat market.

We are aware of an immediate opportunity under the current UN Oil for Food Program to qualify and deliver American wheat this year, which would enable American farmers to compete for Iraqi wheat requirements in 2004 and beyond. The UN recently prioritized 11 current wheat contracts for delivery of wheat to Iraq.

Of these 11 contracts, Australia was given immediate priority to deliver 800,000 metric tons of Australian wheat in the next few months for the apparent reason that it was high quality and suitable for blending with lower quality wheat grown in Iraq. From a technical viewpoint, U.S. wheat is the same high quality for blending as the Australian wheat and is currently competitive in price on the world market.

AMEROPA, a Swiss wheat brokerage company with the task of implementing two of the existing prioritized 11 wheat contracts, has proposed to substitute its remaining 60,000 metric tons of Russian wheat with American wheat, if the priority delivery dates can be moved from late 2004 to the next three months. AMEROPA's Russian principals agree with substituting American wheat to fulfill these remaining deliveries of 60,000 metric tons of wheat.

We strongly urge the State Department, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and the Ministry of Trade in Iraq to accept this offer for an earlier delivery of the American wheat for the following reasons:

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- The quality of U.S. wheat is equally suitable for use in Iraq in the same way as Australian wheat, i.e., for milling it alone or in blending with local Iraqi wheat;

- Early delivery of American wheat in the next three months would enable the Iraqi Grain Board to qualify and have two sources in the world for blending with Iraqi wheat in 2004; and

- Finally, even though 60,000 metric tons is a small quantity, it is symbolic because it shows the American farmer and public that the Ministry of Trade and Iraqi Grain Board are open for new sources to fulfill their wheat needs, including the U.S.

AMEROPA has presented this plan to the Department of State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and we feel the immediate delivery of American wheat is an opportunity that should be promptly seized.

We would appreciate your support for this important and symbolic project for the American farmer. We look forward to your prompt reply, as time is of the essence while market conditions favor the purchase of American wheat.

Sincerely,

George R. Nethercutt Jr.
Member of Congress

Mike Ross
Member of Congress

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

Tom Osborne
Member of Congress

Marian Berry
Member of Congress

Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress

Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Member of Congress

Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress

Dennis R. Rehberg
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Doc Hastings
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Marilyn N. Musgrave
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Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Cc to: The Honorable J.B. Penn
Under Secretary of Agriculture
For Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
United States Department of Agriculture