

July 27, 2007

Dear Members of Congress—

As the House of Representatives considers the 2007 farm bill later this week, we the undersigned—representing millions of American farmers, ranchers, agricultural businesses and lenders from across the United States—ask that you reject outright any amendments that would weaken the farm safety net provided under House Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson’s mark. In particular, we ask you reject any amendments proposed by Representatives Kind and Flake or other amendments that represent their approach to farm policy or their proposal.

The Kind-Flake farm bill proposal—mistakenly being marketed as “reform” when it is nothing more than “repeal”—would dismantle the farm safety net and put U.S. farmers and ranchers in an unfair competition against heavily subsidized foreign producers. Virtually all of our farmers and ranchers—including those raising fruit, peanuts, vegetables, dairy, soybeans, sugar, corn, cotton, wheat, rice, other grains, livestock, and many others—would be financially harmed by even the most modest price drops if these proposals became law.

Kind-Flake would also hurt crop insurance at a time when Congress is trying to bolster crop loss protection. Moreover, Kind-Flake undermines farmers’ ability to promote and use conservation methods that protect our water, air, soil, and wildlife.

Sadly, the Kind-Flake scheme ignores the unparalleled success of the 2002 farm bill, which has saved American taxpayers \$25 billion and ensures that all Americans continue to enjoy the world’s safest and most affordable food supply. This proposal also fails to recognize that U.S. agriculture is an economic driver, employing 20% of the nation’s workforce and contributing \$3.5 trillion to the nation’s economy annually—supportive policies should not be weakened.

The Kind-Flake proposal—in any form—does not represent American farmers or the American citizens we serve every day, and we respectfully urge all Members of Congress to reject it.

Agricultural Retailers Association
 Alabama Peanut Producers Association
 American Agri-Women
 American Association of Crop Insurers
 American Beekeeping Federation
 American Cotton Shippers Association
 American Farm Bureau Federation
 American Sheep Industry Association
 American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
 American Soybean Association
 American Sugar Alliance
 American Sugar Cane League
 American Sugarbeet Growers Association
 California Rice Commission
 Cattle Producers of Washington
 Colorado Corn Growers Association
 Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association
 Cora Texas Manufacturing Company
 Corn Growers Association of North Carolina
 Corn Producers Association of Texas
 Cotton Warehouse Association of America

 Crop Insurance Professionals Association
 Crop Insurance Research Bureau
 Dairylea
 Dairy Farmers of America
 Farm Credit Council
 Farm Policy Facts
 Florida Peanut Producers Association
 Florida Sugar Cane League
 Gay and Robinson, Inc.
 Georgia Peanut Commission
 Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Co.
 Independent Beef Association of North Dakota
 Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska
 Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
 Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America
 Indiana Corn Growers Association
 Kansas Cattlemen's Association
 Land O'Lakes
 Lula-Westfield, L.L.C.
 Maryland Grain Producers Association

 Michigan Corn Growers Association
 Minnesota Corn Growers Association
 Minnesota Farmers Union
 Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
 Mississippi Livestock Markets Association
 Mississippi Peanut Growers Association
 Missouri Corn Growers Association
 Montana Cattlemen's Association
 National Association of Wheat Growers
 National Barley Growers Association
 National Corn Growers Association
 National Cotton Council of America
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
 National Farmers Union
 National Milk Producers Federation
 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
 National Sorghum Producers
 National Sunflower Association
 Nebraska Corn Growers Association
 North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
 Ohio Corn Growers Association
 Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of
 Small Telecommunications Companies
 Plains Cotton Growers
 Rain & Hail, LLC
 Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc.
 Rural Community Insurance Services
 South Dakota Corn Growers Association
 South Dakota Corn Utilization Council
 Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
 Southwest Council of Agribusiness
 Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida
 U.S. Beet Sugar Association
 U.S. Canola Association
 U.S. Dry Bean Council
 United Egg Producers Certified
 United States Cattlemen's Association
 US Rice Producers Association
 USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
 USA Rice Federation
 Western Peanut Growers Association
 Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)