

October 19, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin and Chambliss:

The undersigned organizations are again writing to urge prompt action on 2007 farm legislation. We are encouraged by the announcement that you and your colleagues have reached agreement on a framework on budget and policy options.

While each of our organizations may have concerns and questions about details of the framework agreement, particularly the relatively new version of a revenue option, we believe it is critically important to schedule a committee mark-up and floor consideration as soon as possible using your framework agreement as the basis. We understand the Senate may adjourn on November 16 and we believe it is imperative that the Senate complete work on its version of new farm legislation prior to that date so a conference committee can be appointed.

As you know, important provisions of current farm law have recently expired. Farmers and ranchers need to have policy in place in order to make well-informed financing, cropping and marketing decisions. And, it is important to farmers and ranchers, rural communities and other stakeholders to have conservation, nutrition, energy, risk management, trade, research and other policies in place as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and recommendations. We look forward to working with you to develop and implement effective new farm law as soon as possible.

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Sugar Alliance
American Soybean Association
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Sorghum Growers
National Sunflower Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Rice Producers Association
U.S. Canola Association