

# Farm Bill Energy Title Support Letter

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April 5, 2012

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 Pat Roberts  
U.S. Senate  
109 Hart 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 Roberts and Representatives Lucas and Peterson:

The U.S. is experiencing strong growth in the development and commercialization of biofuels, bioproducts, biopower, biogas, energy crops, renewable energy and energy efficiency. These important and growing industries all benefit agriculture and forestry and are poised to make huge contributions to our economic, environmental and national security in the coming years, provided that we maintain stable policies that support clean energy manufacturing and innovation.

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 are just getting started, the next five years will be crucial for achieving success.

These programs are quite unique. They do not belong anywhere else than in the Farm Bill. Moreover, no other Federal or state agency is properly suited to supplant the role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in advancing these targeted opportunities for the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Many tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs are being created in rural areas by our nation's expanding clean energy economy. This growth is occurring due in large part to Farm Bill energy programs, which have used a modest amount of federal money to leverage billions of dollars in private investment. These new agriculture, manufacturing, and high tech jobs are at risk without continued Federal investment.

The outstanding benefits of Energy Title programs also flow from a very modest investment. They accounted for only 0.7 percent of overall spending in the 2008 Farm Bill. As longstanding agricultural

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safety net programs come under increasing budgetary pressure, these energy investments create new opportunities for producers and rural communities to further diversify their income.

We recognize the fiscal challenges facing your committees as a new Farm Bill is drafted this year. However, for all of 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. Helping to grow the economy in these relatively inexpensive, but transformative ways will help ease the fiscal challenge in the years ahead while also addressing other critical national challenges.

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 rural America.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

Airlines for America

American Council for an Energy-Efficient  
Economy

25x'25 Alliance

Advanced Ethanol Council

Advanced Biofuels Association

Advanced Biofuels USA

Ag Energy Coalition

Algal Biomass Organization

American Biogas Council

American Coalition for Ethanol

American Corn Growers Institute for Public  
Policy

American Council On Renewable Energy

American Institute for Medical and Biological  
Engineering

Association of State Energy Research and  
Technology Transfer Institutions

Biomass Coordinating Council of ACORE

Biomass Power Association

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Clean Fuels Development Coalition

Distributed Wind Energy Association

Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Growth Energy

National Association of Conservation Districts

National Association of State Energy Officials

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Center for Appropriate Technology

National Farmers Union

National Sorghum Producers

National Wildlife Federation

North American Equipment Dealers Association

Renewable Fuels Association

### **Regional and State Organizations**

Adams Electric Cooperative

Alabama Department of Agriculture &  
Industries

Alabama Environmental Council

Alabama Farmers Federation

Alternative Energy Resources Organization of  
Montana

Arkansas Advanced Energy Association

Arkansas Association of RC&D Councils, Inc.

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

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BIOCOM

Biofuels Center of North Carolina

Biomass Energy Resource Center

Blackbelt Cooperative of Alabama

Clean Energy Group

CleanTECH San Diego

Climate Solutions

Colorado Cleantech Industry Association

Colorado Harvesting Energy Network

Dakota Rural Action

Eastern Kentucky University, Center for  
Renewable & Alternative Fuel Technologies

Environmental Law & Policy Center

Florida Bioenergy Association

Florida Forestry Association

Florida Renewable Energy Producers  
Association

Fresh Energy

Georgia Agribusiness Council

Green State Solutions

Gunnison County Electric Association

Harvesting Clean Energy

Hoosier Environmental Council

Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative

Indiana Farmers Union

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Iowa Environmental Council

Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Iowa Small Solar/Wind Energy Trade Assoc

LifeScience Alley/BioBusiness Alliance of  
Minnesota

Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

Memphis Bioworks Foundation, Regional  
AgBioworks Initiative

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

MichBio

Michigan Agri-Business Association

Michigan Biomass

Michigan Environmental Council

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

Michigan Land Use Institute

Mississippi Biomass and Renewable Energy  
Council

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

Mississippi Poultry Association

Missouri Dairy Association

Missouri Farmers Union

Missouri Forest Products Association

North Carolina Association of Professional  
Loggers

North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Nebraska Ethanol Board

North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy

Northwest Food Processors Association

Northwest SEED

Ohio Environmental Council

Oregon Association of Nurseries

Pennsylvania Forestry Association

Powder River Basin Resource Council

RENEW Wisconsin

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Rural Advantage

Rural Electric Conv. Cooperative

South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance

South Dakota Biotech Association

Show Me Energy Coop

South Carolina Biomass Council

Southeast Agriculture & Forestry Energy  
Resources Alliance (SAFER)

Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)

Southwest Ark RC&D Council

Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance

Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic  
Development Council

Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association

Texas Rural Alliance for Renewable Energy

Western Organization of Resource Councils

Windependence

Windustry