

NANCY PELOSI
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

235 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0508
(202) 225-4965

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

DISTRICT OFFICE:
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING
90-7TH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
(415) 556-4862
www.pelosi.house.gov

July 19, 2012

Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
110 Maryland Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Mary Kay Thatcher, Senior Director, Congressional Relations
American Farm Bureau Federation
600 Maryland Avenue SW
Suite 1000W
Washington, D.C. 22024

Dear Mr. Hoefner and Ms. Thatcher,

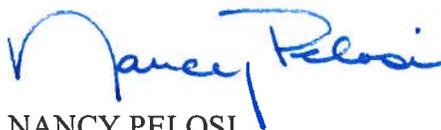
Thank you for the letter from you and a cross section of farmers, ranchers, conservationists, environmentalists, food and nutrition organizations, scientists, and the faith community. I agree that the House Leadership must bring up the Farm bill before Congress leaves in three weeks, so that a Farm bill can be signed into law before the current bill expires on September 30th, 2012.

We know that a diversity of views exists about specific provisions contained in the bill. For example, I do not support the cuts to the food and nutrition programs. But, these differences are all the more reason to bring the bill up for a vote under an open rule that provides all Members with an opportunity to debate the issues, offer amendments, and most importantly—move to a conference with the Senate.

Doing nothing means that the programs providing disaster assistance to livestock and commodity farmers and ranchers will expire at the very time when they are experiencing the worst drought in fifty years. The need for disaster assistance isn't just about farmers and ranchers; it affects consumers, rural communities, and farm equipment manufacturers.

Let us debate the farm bill now, make the necessary changes, and get a good bill to the President's desk before September 30th that protects our farmers, provides access to good and nutritious food, and creates jobs.

best regards,



NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader

Cc: AgriBank
AgStar FCS
AgStar Financial Services
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Feed Industry Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Public Works Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Center for Rural Affairs
Community Food Security Coalition
Cooperative Extension, Purdue University College of Agriculture
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Science Society of America
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Farm Credit Council
Izaak Walton League of America
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of State Conservation Agencies
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Farmers Union
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Sunflower Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness
ProAg
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Science Society of America
The Nature Conservancy
The Ohio State University
United FCS
US Canola Association
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council