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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

NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader

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