



May 17, 2007

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair
Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0703

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

On behalf of National Farmers Union (NFU), I write in support of the \$585,000 continued funding request for the Food Marketing Policy Center (FMPC) at the University of Connecticut. NFU continues its original mission to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and their rural communities. We believe that consumers and producers can work together to promote a safe and affordable domestic supply of safe food.

The FMPC has and continues to provide needed research on food marketing, food safety, antitrust issues and public policy in the food system. Competitive food marketing channels benefit farmers by providing alternative outlets for production, transparent pricing and options for policy change. Inadequate market competition is one of the most pressing issues facing producers across the country. As evidenced by the sharp decline in the number of family farms in the past decade and the increasing trend toward horizontal and vertical concentration in the agricultural and food sectors, independent producers cannot succeed in the absence of protection from unfair, anti-competitive practices. The work at the FMPC helps address this challenge.

Without a doubt, producers are beneficiaries of the work completed at FMPC; however, consumers are the ultimate winner. The FMPC provides research and needed information that helps ensure consumers have an adequate, safe and competitively priced food supply.

Again, I encourage you to support the Food Marketing Policy Center appropriations request of \$585,000 in the FY2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill and thank you for your continued support of such vital research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Buis".

Tom Buis, President
National Farmers Union