



June 18, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
United States House of Representatives
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
United States House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
United States House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
United States House of Representatives
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We write to express our strong conviction that the nation's agriculture policy should be written by the Congress of the United States and not by negotiators at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

We are concerned that as a last ditch effort to propel and extend Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), the Administration may seek a WTO agreement that unfairly and unjustifiably reduces the safety net for our nation's farmers. For some time now, safety net reduction has been used as bait to entice our trading partners into a global agreement. Proceeding in such a manner does not look after the economic wellbeing of family farmers and ranchers and should not be encouraged during this Congress.

Currently, the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are considering provisions for the 2007 Farm Bill. As various proposals are debated, neither existing nor potential trade agreements should dictate the terms of the final legislation. Doing so would deny members of the House and Senate, as well as the rural residents they represent, a voice on critical agriculture and rural policy matters.

In advance, thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

National Farmers Union Board of Directors

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