

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2012

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

We write to urge you to renew core energy title programs in the next Farm Bill. The programs provide a unique federal public-private partnership that benefits agriculture with lower energy input costs as well as increased and diversified revenues. Our nation benefits from enhanced energy security, stewardship of our natural resources and rural economic development.

In particular, we ask you to renew the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and the Biorefinery Assistance Program.

Since the Energy Title was created in the 2002 Farm Bill, we have seen a growing track record of accomplishment for agriculture-based energy. Those accomplishments include over 7,750 energy efficiency and renewable energy projects funded in every state under the Rural Energy for America Program - REAP. We now have working energy crop projects launched under the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, with hundreds of new projects under development. The USDA has also provided the first loan guarantees for cellulosic biofuel projects. The Department of Energy is not the only avenue for America to advance energy solutions.

These programs often provide the means for entrepreneurs to launch new rural small businesses producing biofuels, wind power, solar, geothermal or many other technologies. The public sector investment leverages greater private sector investment, creating jobs based in America's private sector.

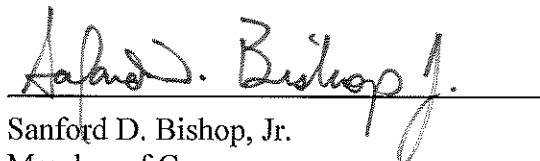
Importantly, these benefits are being realized by many agricultural sectors all over the country. REAP has supported projects in every state and with many diverse technologies. BCAP has supported projects across the country, from the Midwest to the Pacific Northwest and in the South. The Biorefinery Assistance Program has supported projects all over the US, including the South.

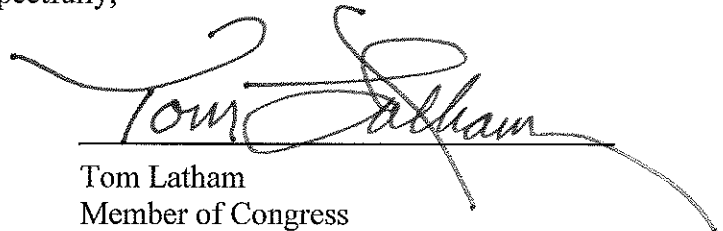
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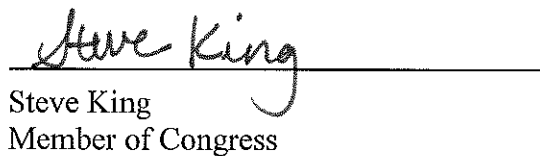
Page 2

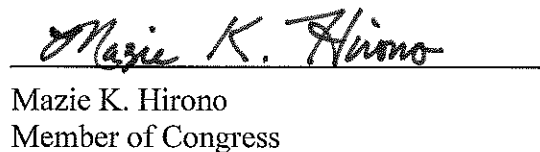
We know that America can overcome her energy challenges and that our agricultural producers and rural small businesses have much to offer the nation in tapping new renewable energy sources. Overcoming these problems requires long-term and consistent commitment. We ask you to provide that leadership by renewing core Farm Bill Energy Title programs.

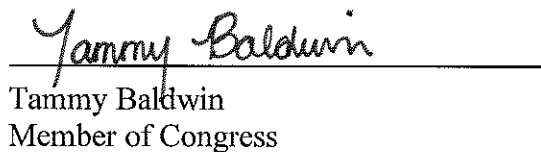
Respectfully,

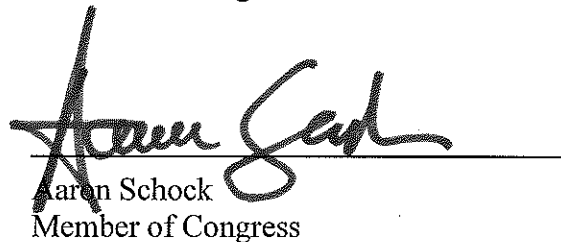

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

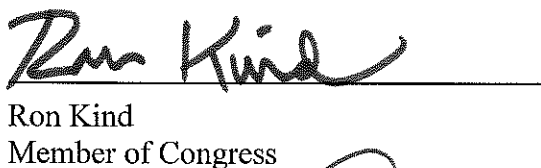

Tom Latham
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress

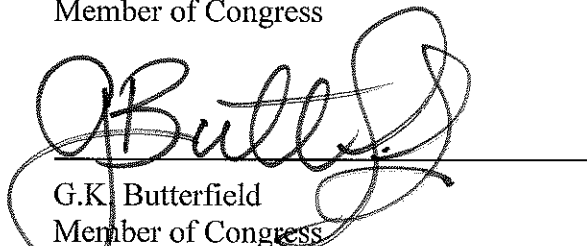

Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

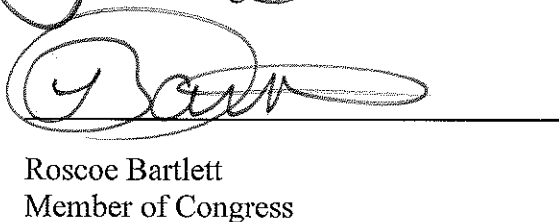

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

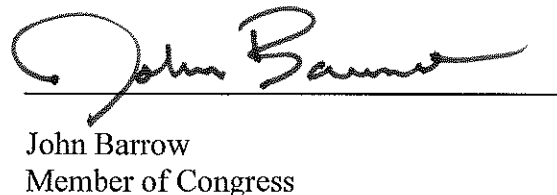

Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Bobby Schilling
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G.K. Butterfield
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Roscoe Bartlett
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