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AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
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CONSERVATION, ENERGY AND FORESTRY

GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
RISK MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3518

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December 19, 2012

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

We commend your efforts to reach agreement with your counterparts on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on a final version of a new farm bill before the end of the current session of Congress. As you know, it is vitally important to conclude this effort in order to protect taxpayers and provide American consumers with an affordable, safe and reliable food supply. Additionally, we need to provide long-term certainty to farmers, ranchers, and others in rural America regarding policies that are important to a vibrant economy over the next five years.

However, we want to stress the importance that Title I must continue to be based on a market-driven policy. One of the Farm Bill's most important jobs is to provide farmers with a safety net that will ensure our nation's food supply and security. Given the current fiscal climate we believe that Title I reforms can be made to improve agriculture while also reducing the deficit. We strongly urge you, during your discussions with the Senate, to ensure that Title I does not create an environment where farmers are "planting for the program" due to a crop's target price, but one where their decisions are market-driven.

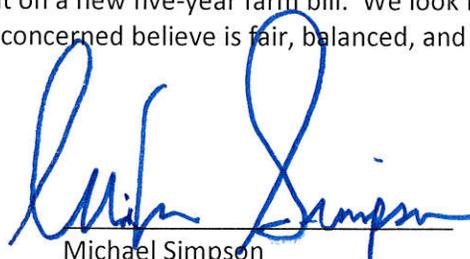
We understand the Senate has expressed willingness to accommodate House concerns about the need for a price-based support program. In the interest of finalizing a bill, we ask that you find ways to satisfy their concerns about Title I as well.

Thank you for your leadership in seeking agreement on a new five-year farm bill. We look forward to supporting a final version of this legislation that all concerned believe is fair, balanced, and in the best interest of U.S. agriculture.

Sincerely,

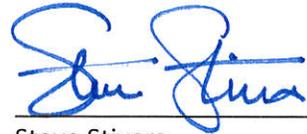


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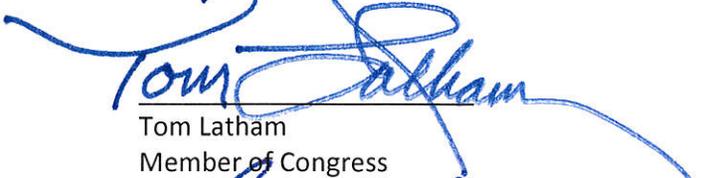

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Tim Ryan
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Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

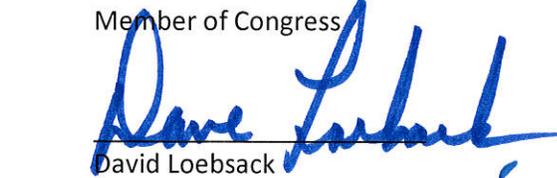

Tim Johnson
Member of Congress

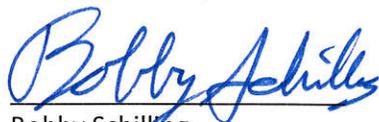

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