



October 2, 2007

The Honorable Chuck Conner
Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Stop 0101
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Secretary Conner:

We write to ask you to consider authorizing extension of emergency haying and/or grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in select Idaho counties through the end of 2007.

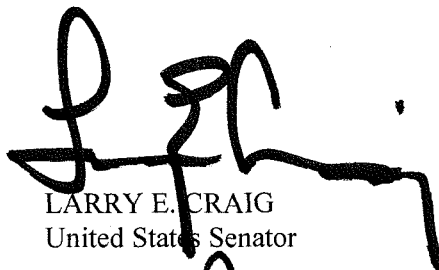
We would first like to thank you for USDA's prompt action in August to approve 14 Idaho counties for emergency haying and/or grazing on CRP acres in response to the extreme drought and wildfire situation facing Idaho farmers and ranchers. That prompt approval allowed many of our ranchers to minimize the inevitable disruption to their operations and cope with the extraordinarily severe conditions.

It is our understanding that this approval was initially granted through September 30, 2007, but has been extended only until October 20, 2007 in those Idaho counties that have requested an extension. However, it has come to our attention that an extension through October 20 may not fully meet the needs of our farmers and ranchers continuing to face severe drought and the aftermath of some of the worst wildfire conditions in recent memory.

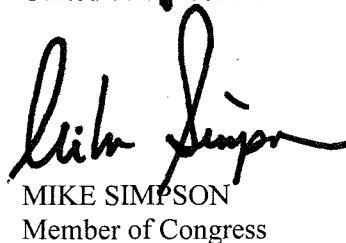
Due to the continued severity of the drought and wildfire situation and the fact that Idaho's climate is similar to States such as Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming, where grazing extensions have been authorized until November 10, 2007, we would like to request that you consider granting a similar extension for haying and grazing in Idaho. Further, we believe that an extension of approval through the end of 2007 would still allow for sufficient CRP acre repair and re-growth following emergency haying and grazing, while giving Idaho farmers and ranchers the flexibility needed to manage their operations under this year's extraordinary conditions.

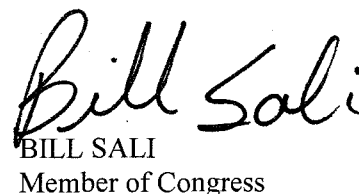
Thank you for your prompt consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


LARRY E. CRAIG
United States Senator


MIKE CRAIG
United States Senator


MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress


BILL SALI
Member of Congress

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