



Dear Representative:

On behalf of the below signed organizations, we are writing to urge you to support the agricultural disaster assistance provisions as included in the FY07 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill when it is considered for a vote in the House of Representatives.

Virtually every state in the nation has been impacted by significant weather related and disaster losses either in 2005, 2006 or 2007. In 2005 alone, about 80 percent of U.S. counties were declared disaster or contiguous disaster counties due to devastating hurricanes, fires, floods, excessive moisture and severe drought. Besides heavy crop and livestock losses and increased production costs associated with rapidly escalating input costs, many producers also face contaminated fields and infrastructure losses that pose serious, long-term challenges to economic recovery.

We appreciate past supplemental assistance offered to help some of the victims of the 2005 hurricane season. Unfortunately, that assistance was not available to all farmers and ranchers who suffered devastating losses due to hurricanes. Furthermore, none of the assistance was available to producers who suffered significant losses to crop and livestock operations as a result of fires, flooding, drought, excessive moisture and the record-high energy costs brought on by natural disasters.

Because of the urgent need for disaster assistance and the widespread losses which span the country, we believe prompt action on this measure is vitally important given that traditional production loss assistance can take up to six months.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

- American Farm Bureau Federation
- National Farmers Union
- Alabama Peanut Producers Assoc
- American Agriculture Movement
- American Beekeeping Federation
- American Sheep Industry Association
- American Soybean Association
- American Sugar Alliance
- California Avocado Commission
- Farm Credit Council
- Florida Peanut Producers Assoc.
- Georgia Peanut Commission
- Independent Community Bankers of America

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 And

Land O'Lakes  
League of Rural Voters  
National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC)  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Northwest Bean Growers  
Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship  
Organization for the Promotion and Advancement  
of Small Telecommunications Companies  
Ricebelt Warehouses  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwestern Peanut Growers  
The Fertilizer Institute  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
US Canola Association  
USA Rice Federation  
Western Peanut Growers