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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Agriculture**  
Room 1501, Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6001

(202) 225-2171  
(202) 225-8510 FAX

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March 11, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Congress may soon consider a range of climate change options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Among the options being considered are those that would either mandate or authorize a cap and trade program or impose a carbon tax or fee. The House Committee on Agriculture is gathering information to help Members better understand the options available especially as they relate to agriculture and forestry. Most of the current legislative proposals would not require emission reductions in the agriculture and forestry sectors, but various proposals would allow producers to receive emission allowances to generate carbon offsets which could be sold under a cap and trade program. Depending on how it is constructed, agriculture producers and forest landowners may benefit from a carbon reduction program, and it is important Members understand the various approaches.

The Agriculture Committee and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have a track record of working with stakeholders on carbon sequestration programs. Farm Bill programs encourage farmers and ranchers to sequester carbon and reduce emissions associated with climate change, adopt energy efficiency measures, produce renewable energy feedstocks, and participate in markets for carbon storage. Similarly, many agriculture conservation programs provide cost-sharing and technical assistance to farmers solely for the purpose of natural resource conservation.

If Congress decides that climate change legislation should seek to maximize agriculture's participation and ensure greenhouse gas reductions, sustaining a strong farm and ranch economy is imperative. Understanding that there are many different approaches to address this issue, and in the interest of maintaining an open, transparent, and inclusive process, we have created the attached document to gather input across the broad spectrum of interested parties. This questionnaire will be sent to various organizations, to gather information and facilitate the discussion of the role of agriculture and forestry in the climate change debate. The responses we receive will be used in crafting principles that could be part of any subsequent legislation.

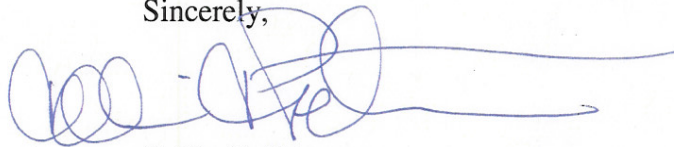
The questionnaire is a combination of short answer and essay questions. Short answers should be no more than **three hundred words**, and essay answers should be no

more than **six hundred words**, and all responses should be on topic for consideration for the record. It is understood that some groups may not have an opinion on each question, therefore please answer those questions applicable to you and/or your organization.

There are a number of individuals, stakeholders, and public organizations interested in the topic of climate change, and our goal is to solicit a response from them all. The structure of trade associations, coalitions, and other entities may lend to duplication; however, the choice of answering on behalf of a specific company or on behalf of an organization/coalition is left to you. Please note that all submitted questionnaires must be accompanied by a completed biographical form which includes group affiliations.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. The deadline for all responses is **April 10, 2009**. If you have any questions related to this document please contact the House Committee on Agriculture at 202-225-2171, or send an email to [AgQuestionnaire2009@mail.house.gov](mailto:AgQuestionnaire2009@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Collin C. Peterson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Collin C. Peterson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture