

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

Thank you for your leadership on the fiscal challenges facing Congress and our nation. As you continue to address year-end proposals, we respectfully request you consider the need for responsible, long-term farm policy in any legislative package considered by the House of Representatives.

Our country's farmers and ranchers produce the safest, most affordable food in the world, and need certainty as they plan for the coming year. While we understand the difficulty of including a range of priorities in one legislative package, a responsible Farm Bill should be among our highest. More than 16 million jobs are impacted by U.S. farm policy, and last year our producers generated record exports worth \$137 billion. While agriculture remains one of the lone bright spots in the economy, farmers and ranchers continue to struggle with severe weather conditions and uncertain public policy.

We understand and fully support the need to reduce spending and reach an agreement to avert the "fiscal cliff." While we applaud the willingness to compromise, we also urge key negotiators to consider the success of certain programs and recent efforts to make risk management tools more efficient and effective.

While we are disappointed Congress was unable to properly deliberate and, in turn, pass a long-term Farm Bill, we want to thank you for working toward a solution. We are committed to supporting good public policy which includes responsible reforms to ensure America remains self-sufficient in food and fiber production.

Sincerely,



ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress



LEE TERRY
Member of Congress