

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

We write to respectfully request that, in writing the next Farm Bill, a number of items of importance are included in the Committee's draft mark in order for the pork industry to continue to thrive. It is imperative that we complete a Farm Bill in 2012 to meet the needs of the pork industry and provide certainty for producers.

Pork is one of the most important agricultural commodities in the United States. The most recent agricultural census indicated that nearly 21 billion pounds of pork were processed from about 105 million hogs in 2007. The industry produced nearly \$21.8 billion in personal income for farm families and contributed \$34.5 billion to the country's gross national product. Additionally, the industry provides 35,000 direct and 515,200 indirect jobs and is the source of the livelihoods for thousands of American families.

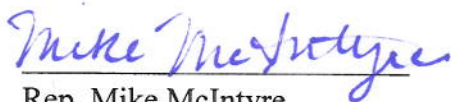
If this industry is to continue to build upon the successes it has achieved, the following modest but important policy items need to be included Farm Bill.

1. The Farm Bill should provide producers with risk management tools to create a predictable business environment needed for further growth and exports. This can be best achieved by reauthorizing the Livestock Gross Margin Insurance program in Title XII with funding at or below \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017. Additionally, the program design must allow for USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to craft policies that are workable for all sectors of the livestock economy regardless of herd sizes.
2. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation should be directed in the Farm Bill to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of insuring swine producers for a catastrophic event. The expansion in the export of American pork products has provided the benefit of additional income for American producers; however the increased reliance on export markets has created additional risks for catastrophic events disrupting the market and harming producers' ability to recover their expenses. A study to examine the possibility of insuring a catastrophic event may provide a pathway for pork producers to pay for a product that controls against this risk.

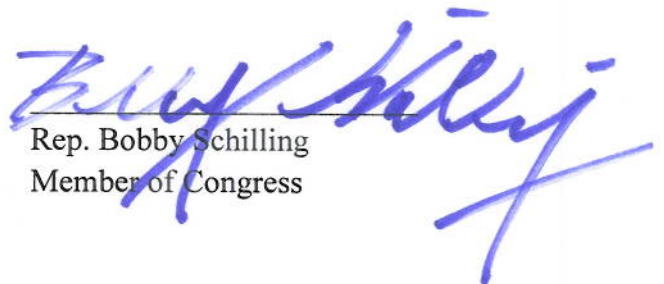
3. Pork producers are interested in managing their operations in environmentally sound and sustainable fashion. An important program that pork producers rely upon to maintain and improve their environmental stewardship practices in their operations is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program has a track record for delivering large results from modest investments and should be retained at its 2008 Farm Bill level in the coming authorization.
4. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is an important tool to help livestock producers survive disaster events that cause livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. This program, which is an integral component of the agricultural safety net, must be reauthorized to provide a backstop to producers who experience severe hardship through no fault of their own.
5. If our agricultural system is to make the strides in productivity that will be necessary to feed the world in the coming years, it is important that existing research resources be leveraged to provide maximum results for American producers. One way that this can be accomplished is to create institutions that can draw support from across the public, private and non-profit sectors to fund research and provide technical assistance to farmers in the field. Understanding the efficiencies of coordination, the Farm Bill should authorize Regional Centers of Excellence and provide \$10 million in mandatory funding to reduce duplicative efforts and streamline the conduct of research and the delivery of findings.

I appreciate your consideration of these important issues. If you or your staff have questions or require any additional information or assistance, please contact Jack Huerter in my office at 202.225.1254 or jack.huerter@mail.house.gov.

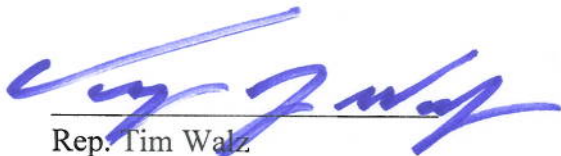
Sincerely,



Rep. Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



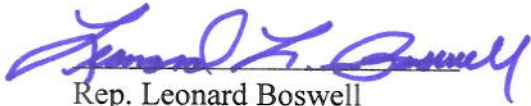
Rep. Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress



Rep. Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve King
Member of Congress



Rep. Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



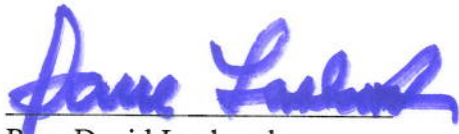
Rep. Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress



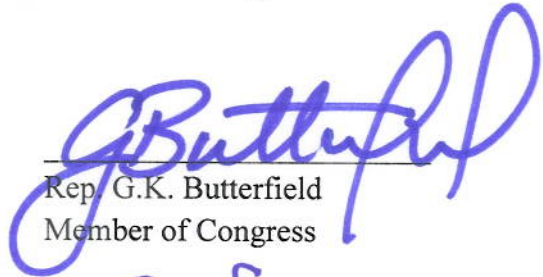
Rep. Larry Kissell
Member of Congress



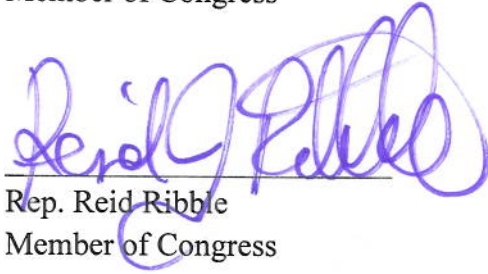
Rep. Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



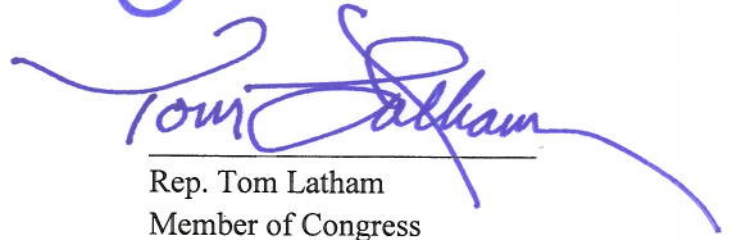
Rep. David Loebach
Member of Congress



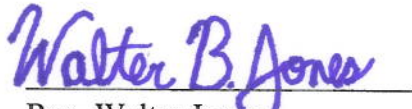
Rep. G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



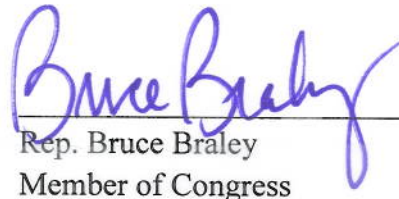
Rep. Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



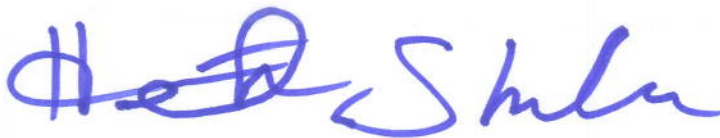
Rep. Tom Latham
Member of Congress



Rep. Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Rep. Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



Rep. Heath Shuler
Member of Congress