

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Roberts:

As you discuss a potential new Farm Bill with the House of Representatives, we write to urge you to press for the Senate position on rural energy programs.

As you know, the Senate Farm Bill contains an \$800 million commitment to expanding energy production in rural America. This was added on a bipartisan basis in your committee in order to provide critical resources to rural energy programs for on-farm renewable energy, energy-efficiency projects, and research and development for advanced biofuels. Unfortunately, the Farm Bill produced by House Agriculture Committee lacks any financial resources and includes several provisions that would inhibit the production of rural energy.

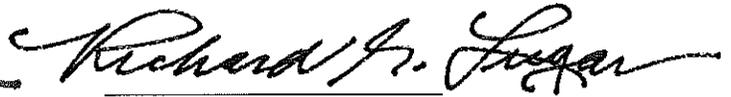
Rural energy production provides key economic opportunities for farmers and communities in all areas of the country. We have seen the significant impact energy development has had in our rural communities, including significant job growth and investment. It is imperative that we continue to invest in these key programs so that we can provide certainty to attract investment, create jobs, and continue to improve our domestic energy infrastructure.

Thank you for considering our request as you work to finalize a new Farm Bill.

Sincerely,



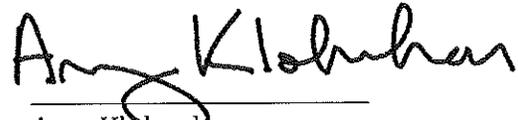
Al Franken
United States Senator



Richard Lugar
United States Senator



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



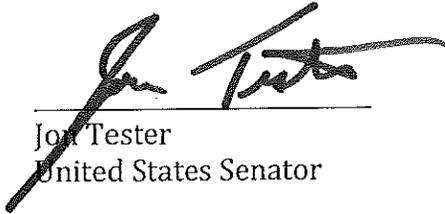
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



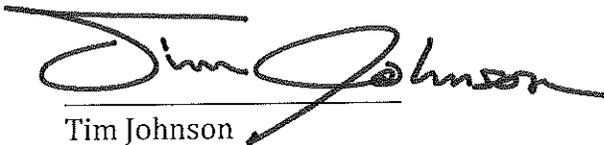
Ben Nelson
United States Senator



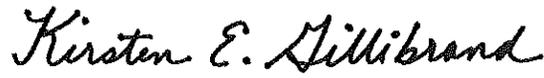
Jon Tester
United States Senator



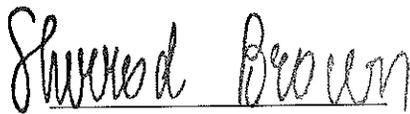
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



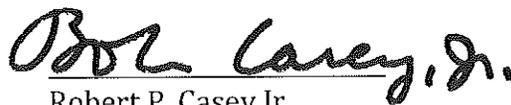
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



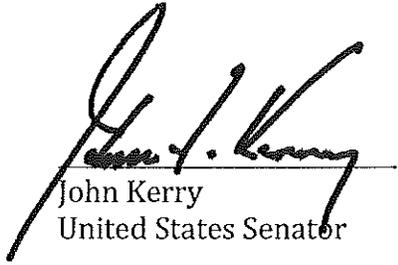
Dick Durbin
United States Senator

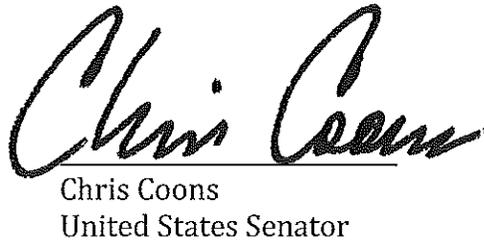


John Hoeven
United States Senator

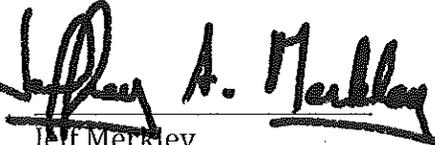


Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator


John Kerry
United States Senator


Chris Coons
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Jeff Merkley
United States Senator