



January 28, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Boehner:

National Farmers Union (NFU) calls on the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to call up and pass the farm bill conference report this week. Given the importance of the farm bill to NFU's membership, final votes on the bill will be scored for NFU's biennial legislative scorecard.

Farm bill conference committee members have agreed to a compromise that will provide farmers, ranchers, rural residents and America's consumers with policy certainty over the next five years. Thanks to the leadership of Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Lucas, Ranking Member Cochran, and Ranking Member Peterson, the farm bill is now at the final stage in the legislative process.

NFU is pleased with the conference report for a variety of reasons, and a few issues deserve to be highlighted. First, the bill does not rescind permanent law, which provides an incentive for congress to periodically review farm programs. NFU strongly supports the inclusion of fixed reference prices for commodity programs. Fixed reference prices will ensure strong price protection in times of low market prices.

The bill provides a strong crop insurance title that is expanded to include specialty crops. Conservation programs have been streamlined and adequately funded to provide farmers and ranchers an incentive to continue being good stewards of the land.

NFU is also encouraged that negotiators provided robust mandatory funding for renewable energy programs. Finally, the bill preserves the ability of American producers to distinguish their products in the marketplace through the existing Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) law.

Thank you very much for your leadership in helping to bring the farm bill to this stage in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Roger Johnson
President

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives