

March 28, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Agriculture Committee Leaders:

As you renew farm and food policies, we urge you to renew the conservation compact between farmers and taxpayers.

The conservation compact—a provision of the 1985 farm bill called conservation compliance—sparked a decade of unprecedented progress in limiting soil erosion, cleaning up waterways, and protecting wetlands. This compact between farmers and taxpayers has been one of America’s greatest conservation success stories.

Farmers managing more than 140 million acres of highly erodible land have implemented practices that reduced the amount of soil washed into streams from “highly erodible” lands by 40 percent. At the same time, farmers have received generous federal support that has stabilized farm income. This compact has served both farmers and taxpayers very well and should be renewed.

As you take steps to modernize our farm safety net, we urge you to renew our conservation compact. The conservation compact should bring all income support programs under its umbrella, including eligibility for crop and revenue insurance premium subsidies.



Dan Glickman



Ann M. Veneman