



February 27, 2012

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Roberts, Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

On behalf of the 643 organizations, representing tens of millions of Americans, we transmit this letter to express our strong support for the Conservation Title of the U.S. Farm Bill. We urge you to provide the greatest possible priority for conservation programs in the funding and structuring of Farm Bill Re-authorization.

In our vast collective experience as landowners, farmers, ranchers, forest managers, agricultural and forest businesses, hunters and anglers, local and state government officials, and non-profit organizations representing a wide range of interests, we can say, without any doubt, that the programs within the Conservation Title work cost-effectively to serve the short and long term interests of the American people.

The result is real conservation with multiple benefits for every region of America. Not the least of these is helping landowners to stay on the land as stewards of America's legacy of natural resources. Thus we urge you to reauthorize the Farm Bill in a manner that sustains the integrity and effectiveness of the Conservation Title and maintains conservation funding that meets our national needs.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of the hundreds of organizations that have signed this letter.

Sincerely,  
American Farmland Trust  
American Forest Foundation  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Ducks Unlimited  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Land Trust Alliance  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
The Nature Conservancy