

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510


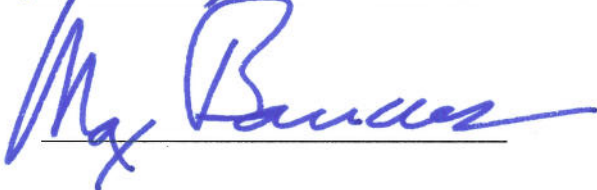
Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

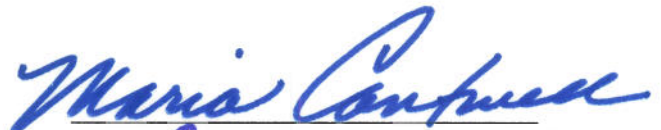

With our constant focus on job creation, we write to urge you to schedule floor consideration of the "Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012" as soon as possible. The bill takes steps to reduce the deficit and decrease government spending by \$23 billion. It passed the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry on April 26 with a bipartisan vote of 16 to 5. This sets an example of how Senators can come together in a bipartisan way to craft meaningful, yet fiscally responsible, policy.

We believe there is strong support in the full Senate to consider the bill in a fair and open manner that allows Senators the opportunity to offer amendments. Current authorities for farm risk management, nutrition, conservation, and other farm bill programs are set to expire at the end of this year. According to the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, nearly 16 million jobs are related to agriculture. But, federal farm policy impacts more than those directly involved in agriculture or living in rural areas. We need to act soon to complete a farm bill in 2012 and provide certainty for farmers, ranchers, rural communities, other stakeholders, and all Americans.

We very much appreciate your recognition of the need for timely action on the farm bill.

Sincerely,

to Benjamin Nelson

Olympic Smokey

Al Franken

Jeffrey A. Mackley

Kent Conrad

Mark F. B. +

Joe Testa

Bar Sanders

Tom Harkin

Joe R. Kinch

Herb Kohl

Shirrod Brown

Mike Crogo

Chuck Grassley

Ron Wyden

Ken Coats

Patrick Leahy

Caine McCasill

Amy Klobuchar

John F. Kerry

Richard G. Lugar

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Bob Carey, Jr.

Kay R. Hagan

Jeanne Shaker

Jerry Moran

John Hovorn

Jim Johnson

Chiri Coen

Scott P. Brown

Paul Nelson

Mike Enji

Richard Blumenfeld

Tom Udare

Paul Udall

Murray

John Barrasso

John

Clara Kim

Kay Bailey Hutchison