



Terry E. Branstad
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Kim Reynolds
LT. GOVERNOR

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chair, Farm Bill Conference Committee &
Chair, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

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

Dear Agriculture Committee Leaders and Members of the Farm Bill Conference Committee:

We write to thank you for your efforts to reconcile farm bill provisions from each chamber and to reiterate our support for swift farm bill reauthorization. We were encouraged by the conference committee appointments, including two prominent Iowans. We urge prompt, bipartisan resolution to enact needed farm program reforms, gain real cost savings, improve the sustainability of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and provide long-term certainty for farm families and agricultural producers.

We applaud both chambers for moving forward significant programmatic reforms that improve risk management and focus and improve the sustainability of relevant farm programs. Given the current fiscal environment, we appreciate the hard decisions before you, but believe you will meet the challenge of forging a bipartisan compromise that respects each side's principles. Your work can help improve the efficacy and efficiency of various farm bill programs. In addition, you have an opportunity to shepherd through a significant piece of legislation which would demonstrate Congress's commitment to rural America.

As leaders of a key agricultural state where the fall harvest is currently underway, we urge you to pass a bipartisan, long-term farm bill out of conference that meets the needs of our agricultural producers and American consumers.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Terry E. Branstad in blue ink.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Handwritten signature of Kim Reynolds in blue ink.

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor of Iowa

cc: Iowa Congressional Delegation
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture