



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**John Hoeven**  
*Governor*

May 12, 2008

Dear Governor:


Last week, a Congressional conference committee announced its agreement on the proposed five-year Farm Bill. The Senate and House votes for this bill are likely to occur this week. I am writing to request your support for this important legislation that affects not only farmers, but many of the citizens of your state.

The Farm Bill includes a price safety net for farmers and ranchers who produce the bountiful, varied and safe food Americans take for granted, but it also contains important nutrition provisions, including support for school lunch programs, food banks and food stamps. In fact, 73.5 percent of authorized funding will go to nutrition programs.

Many Governors have joined me in urging Congress toward a successful completion of the Farm Bill. In letters and personal contacts, many of us agreed that the federal farm legislation must provide a consistent, dependable safety net for our nation's farmers; incentives for rural development and renewable energy; strong measures for conservation; and nutrition programs for the nation's needy families. This Farm Bill does those things.

Governor, I urge you to encourage your state's U.S. Senators and Representatives to support this important legislation. This bill is important to our agriculture producers, our rural businesses, our communities and our states. I encourage you to urge your state's congressional delegation to pass this significant farm policy as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

  
John Hoeven  
Governor

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