

May 24, 2010

Representative Sander Levin  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Rep. Levin:

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports passage of the *American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act*. Prompt passage is needed to reinstate many important farm-related tax provisions that expired at the end of 2009 and to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.

Clean, renewable, domestic energy is helping agriculture achieve economic growth, create a cleaner environment and shield our economy from unreliable foreign energy sources. Farmers and ranchers are playing a bigger role in supplying our nation with the energy it needs through the production of agricultural-based renewable energy resources. Farm Bureau supports the extension of tax incentives for biodiesel, renewable diesel and for small agri-biodiesel producers. These incentives play a key role in the development and expansion of renewable energy.

The farm and ranch sector can help stimulate the economy, assist those in need and preserve open space when agricultural producers' incomes allow them to do more than just cover necessary expenses. This is why Farm Bureau supports the extension of tax provisions that provide incentives to upgrade operations, donate food and preserve farmland. These provisions include: the five-year depreciation for farm business machinery and equipment, enhanced charitable deduction for donated food and an enhanced tax deduction for donating a conservation easement.

Most farmers and ranchers pay taxes as individuals which means that individual tax rates and deductions have a huge impact on the amount of after-tax income that they have to take care of their families. Farm Bureau supports extension of the additional standard deduction for state and local real property taxes and the deduction of state and local sales taxes and other provisions that increase after-tax dollars for farm families who are already struggling with uncertain incomes caused by weather and uncertain markets.

Farm Bureau also supports the ad hoc disaster assistance provisions included in this legislation. Many farms that experienced agricultural disasters in 2009 will not be eligible for assistance under the disaster package in the 2008 Farm Bill. In this tightening

credit market, ad hoc disaster assistance could be the only thing that will keep some farmers on their farms.

Farm Bureau urges you to vote for passage of the *American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act*. Thank you for your consideration of these issues of importance to our nation's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Stallman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Stallman  
President