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2ND DISTRICT, KANSAS

ASSISTANT WHIP

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February 25, 2010

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Lucas:

As you and the committee members make preparations to hold field hearings this summer to begin discussion on the next farm bill, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to hold a hearing in eastern Kansas. The agriculture industry contributes more than \$1.4 billion to the economy in my district, and a strong safety net is critical for the more than 31,500 farmers and all communities in my district. The farmers, ranchers and conservationists, agribusinesses, all who benefit from the nutrition programs and all others who have a stake in the farm bill would greatly appreciate your consideration of holding a field hearing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district in Kansas

With the nation's debt skyrocketing to very concerning levels and with trillion dollar deficits looming, it will be imperative for Congress to protect the farm safety net without additionally straining our nation's long-term fiscal situation. Our nation is on an unsustainable fiscal path so as a Members of Congress we are responsible for passing a fiscally sound bill. Farm programs in recent years have had a target on their back when Washington looks to cut government spending. While I fully agree that we must restore order to our fiscal house, I know a thriving agriculture industry is critical to our nation's economic prosperity.

We enjoy the safest and most abundant food supply in the United States and that is because our agricultural producers grow the highest quality products. A strong and predictable farm safety net ensures our farmers and ranchers are able to produce food, fiber and energy today and to make operating decisions for future years. Without such a safety net, it is possible we could be forced to rely on foreign nations for food just as we do for oil today.

I hope you will strongly consider coming to Kansas to hold a field hearing about the next farm bill, and I offer my support to passing a strong farm bill that helps put our nation on the right fiscal path.

Sincerely,



Lynn Jenkins, CPA  
Member of Congress