



Agriculture Energy Alliance

Representing agriculture as a producer and consumer of energy

September 13, 2006

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support Offshore Oil and Gas Production Now

Dear Senator:

The 107 members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance (AEA) strongly urge you to support offshore production legislation that will allow for oil and gas drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf. This legislation needs to be sent to President Bush for his signature prior to adjournment. It is absolutely critical to agriculture that Congress pass this key legislation to address high natural gas prices and the negative effect these prices have on agriculture. We cannot allow this opportunity to wait for another day, so please ensure that every effort is made to help agriculture by supporting passage of an offshore production bill now.

Agriculture needs additional supplies of natural gas to help ease the pain of increased prices of inputs, fertilizer and other business costs. The AEA urges the Senate to complete its work and to send a bill to the President now to pass legislation that will significantly improve natural gas supply in the United States. Throughout the debate on energy policy, the AEA has consistently urged Congress to pass legislation that would allow expanded production in the Outer Continental Shelf.

The AEA represents a broad-based coalition of farm organizations and agribusinesses that face a crisis because of government policies that have created demand for natural gas while at the same time restricting access to supply sources. The farm sector depends on significant amounts of natural gas for food processing, irrigation, crop drying, heating farm buildings and homes and the production of crop protection chemicals and nitrogen fertilizer.

Additional supply of American energy resources is important to maintaining a competitive agricultural sector. AEA supports legislation that will provide an enhanced role for development of offshore energy resources leading to a more diverse energy portfolio and additional supplies of natural gas. We urge you to support offshore production legislation that is critical to U.S. farmers, agribusinesses and other energy consumers. We ask that you

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continue to work with us and support us in these efforts to increase natural gas supply from offshore production. Please send a bill to the president for this signature prior to adjournment.

Sincerely,

**Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of California
Agricultural Retailers Assn.
Agrilliance, LLC
Agrium Inc.
Alabama Crop Management Assn.
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Plant Food Corporation
American Soybean Assn.
Arkansas Plant Food Assn.
Ben-Trei Ltd.
Brandt Consolidated
CF Industries
CHS Inc.
California League of Food Processors
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
CoBank (CO)
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Grain & Feed Assn.
Crop Production Services
CropLife America
D.B. Western, Inc.—Texas
DeBruce Fertilizer, Inc.
Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Assn.
Diamond of California
Far West Agribusiness Assn.
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assn.
Georgia Agribusiness Council, Inc.
Georgia Feed & Grain Assn., Inc.
GROWMARK, Inc.
Hardee County Farm Bureau (FL)
Hartung Brothers, Inc.
Hawaiian Alliance for Responsible
Technology & Science
Helena Chemical Company
Hillsborough County Farm Bureau (FL)
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Assn.
Indiana Grain & Feed Assn.
Indiana Plant Food & Ag Chemicals Assn.
Intermountain Farmers Assn.
International Chemical Corporation
International Commodities Export Corp.
International Raw Materials Ltd.
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives**

**JR Simplot Company
Jim Hicks & Company
Johnston Enterprises
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assn.
Land O' Lakes, Inc.
Louisiana Ammonia Producers
MFA Incorporated
Mayo Fertilizer Inc.
Michigan Agri-Business Assn.
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Missouri Ag Industries Council, Inc.
Monsanto Company
Montana Agricultural Business Assn.
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Assn.
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Assn.
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain Sorghum Producers Assn.
National Grange
National Renderers Association, Inc.
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Assn.
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Agri-Business Assn.
North Dakota Agricultural Assn.
Northern Ag Suppliers, Inc.
Oklahoma Ag Retailers
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Pennsylvania Assn. of Milk Dealers
Plant Food Association of North
Carolina, Inc.
PotashCorp
Rocky Mountain Agri-Business Assn.
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Fertilizer and Agrichemical
Assn.
South Dakota Agri-Business Assn.
Southern Crop Production Assn. (GA)
Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
Tennessee Agricultural Production Assn.
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Terra Industries
Texas Ag Industries Assn.**

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Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Grain & Feed Assn.
The Andersons, Inc.
The Fertilizer Institute
The McGregor Company
The Mosaic Company
3-D Fertilizer
U.S. Canola Assn.
USA Rice Federation
United Suppliers, Inc.
Virginia Crop Production Assn.
Virginia Poultry Federation, Inc.
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington State council of Farmer
Cooperatives
West Central Inc.
Western Peanut Growers Association (TX)
Western Plant Health Association (CA)
Wheeler Bros. Grain and Fertilizer Co.
Willard Agri-Service of Fredrick, Inc. (MD)
Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Assn.