



Agriculture Energy Alliance

Representing agriculture as a producer and consumer of energy

June 6, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support Peterson Amendments on Offshore Natural Gas Production

Dear Chairman Obey:

The 113 members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance oppose any amendments to the Interior Appropriations Bill that would result in decreasing or slowing down new production of onshore or offshore natural gas. The AEA worked very hard to support several provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that would address the increased price and supply of natural gas so critical to U.S. agriculture. We also worked very diligently to secure new supplies of natural gas by supporting S. 3711, a bill that opened up new supply of energy in the Outer Continental Shelf.

AEA supports amendments to the Interior Appropriations bill offered by Congressman Peterson (R-PA) that would allow for additional offshore natural gas production.

Our business is to grow abundant food and fiber for America and people around the world. Experts say that food production will need to double in the next 20 years to meet rising global demand. But today, tight natural gas supplies have driven U.S. farm inputs and energy prices to all time highs, cutting farm income. The U.S. farm sector is being weakened by constraints on onshore and offshore energy development, even as global demand for food is growing every year. By wisely developing and utilizing our own national resources, Congress can help ensure that farming remains an economically viable occupation.

Onshore and offshore energy production is a vote for food security. The farm sector depends on significant amounts of energy for food processing, irrigation, crop drying, heating farm buildings and homes and the production of crop protection chemicals and fertilizer.

We urge you to support Congressman Peterson's amendments allowing for additional offshore natural gas production. Additional supply of American energy resources is critical to maintaining a competitive agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

Members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance

**Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of California
Agricultural Retailers Assn.**

**Agrilience, 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
 Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Assn.
 Diamond of California
 Fairfield Index Inc.
 Far West Agribusiness Assn. (WA)
 Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assn.
 Florida Strawberry Growers Assn.
 Georgia Agribusiness Council, Inc.
 Georgia Feed & Grain Assn., Inc.
 GROWMARK, Inc.
 Hardee County Frm Bureau (FL)
 Hartung Brothers, Inc.
 Hawaiian Alliance for Responsible
 Technology & Science
 Helena Chemical Company
 Hillsborough County Agriculture Economic
 Development Council (FL)
 Hillsborough County Farm Bureau (FL)
 Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Assn.
 Indiana Grain & Feed Association
 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 Seed Company
 Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assn.
 Kansas Grain and Feed 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 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 Farm Bureau
 Oregon Wheat Growers League
 Pennsylvania Assn. of Milk Dealers
 Plant Food Association of North
 Carolina, Inc.
 Polk County Farm Bureau
 PotashCorp
 Rocky Mountain Agri-Business Assn. (CO)
 Sarasota County Farm Bureau (FL)
 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.
 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.
 W.B. Johnston Grain Company
 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 Frederick, Inc. (MD)
 Wisconsin Crop Production Association