

Agriculture Energy Alliance

Representing agriculture as a producer and consumer of energy

Press Release

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AEA ENCOURAGED BY MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE FIVE-YEAR LEASING PLAN

Washington, D.C. (May 1, 2007) – The 113 members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance are encouraged by the Minerals Management Service's announcement yesterday of its Five-Year Plan for expanding access to domestic energy supplies in the Outer Continental Shelf. The Five-Year leasing plan covers 2007-2012.

The AEA is particularly interested in and supportive of the Five-Year Plan since it represents potential new supply of energy so important to agriculture. The farm sector depends on significant amounts of natural gas for food processing, irrigation, crop drying, heating farm buildings and homes, and production of crop protection chemicals and nitrogen fertilizers.

Agriculture uses its energy supplies as efficiently as possible, but additional supplies of American energy resources are important to maintaining a competitive agricultural sector. AEA supports the MMS plan that was announced on April 30, 2007 as it represents another important step to providing new energy supplies in the Outer Continental Shelf. Despite legislative success under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the Congress still maintains moratorium over 80 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf. The tremendous amount of natural gas in the OCS should be opened up for development to assure our nation's energy and food security.

In the past, government policies have created demand for natural gas while at the same time restricting access to supply sources. Today, additional Congressional proposals would add even more demand for natural gas while still not addressing supply concerns. The tight natural gas supply and high costs have driven farm input and energy costs to all time highs. By wisely developing and utilizing our own national energy resources, Congress can help ensure farming remains an economically viable occupation.

We ask that Congress support the Minerals Management Service's modest efforts to expand offshore production in this new Five-Year Plan. Congress should not accept any legislative proposals that would roll back existing supply policies. Congress should look for new ways to ensure that American agriculture and U.S. industry have the necessary energy requirements to meet future demand for its products.

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of California
Agricultural Retailers Assn.
Agriliance, 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
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 Farm 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 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.
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 (FL)
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.

**Washington Association of Wheat
Growers
Washington State Council of Farmer
Cooperatives
West Central Inc.
Western Peanut Growers Assn. (TX)
Western Plant Health Assn. (CA)
Wheeler Bros. Grain and Fertilizer Co.
Willard Agri-Service of Frederick,
Inc. (MD)
Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Assn.**