



# Agriculture Energy Alliance

*Representing agriculture as a producer and consumer of energy*

July 22, 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations

## **Re: Support Amendments to Open Offshore Natural Gas Production**

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

The 108 members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance (AEA) urge you to vote in favor of amendments offered to remove the moratorium on natural gas production in the Outer Continental Shelf.

AEA supports any amendment to the Appropriations bill 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, increasing farm production costs. The U.S. farm sector is being weakened by constraints on onshore and offshore natural gas 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 natural gas production is a vote for food security. 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 fertilizer.**

We urge you to support 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.  
Agrium Inc.  
Alabama Crop Management Assn.**

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Plant Food Corporation  
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 Chamber of Commerce  
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 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 Enterprises  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assn.  
Kansas Grain and Feed Assn.  
Land O' Lakes, Inc.  
Louisiana Ammonia Producers  
MFA Incorporated  
Mayo Fertilizer Inc.  
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

Missouri Agribusiness Association  
Monsanto Company  
Montana Agricultural Business Assn.  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Chicken Council  
National Corn Growers Assn.  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grange  
National Renderers Association, Inc.  
National Sorghum Producers  
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  
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 Frederick, Inc. (MD)  
Wisconsin Crop Production Association

