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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 11/03/2005 10:43 AM CST
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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: I am Gary Johnson, a forest landowner and Tree Farm member.

I urge the President and Congress to maintain a separate and viable Forestry program under the proposed Farm Bill 2007. Separate identity is necessary to clearly identify program objectives related specifically to our nation's private forestlands.

There are approximately 10 million family forest landowners nationwide. Forest families own more than two-thirds of our nation's forestlands. These families own forestland for a variety of benefits such as timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, visual quality and watershed protection.

These same benefits, wildlife habitat, recreation, etc. as well as clean water and fresh air are of importance to the entire public. However, the public benefits are not clearly recognized by society, and as a result many private forestlands are a risk to fragmentation, changes in land use and declining forest health.

With better understanding and support, forest landowners can continue to protect our nation's private forestlands and sustain the production of benefits for future generations.

There are many entities willing to provide assistance. These entities include, but are certainly not limited to consulting foresters, logging companies, the forest products industry, the Extension Service and organizations such as the Tree Farm System.

The Federal government must play a role in Forestland retention and improvement and can do so through continuation of a separate and viable forest-specific program in Farm Bill 2007.

I thank you for your time.

Question5:

Question6: