

November 16, 2005

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Subject: Comment  
2007 Farm Bill

Secretary of Agriculture  
Mike Johanns  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
Rm 116A, Jamie L Whitten Fed. Bldg  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington DC, 20250-3355

Sir,

To effectively compete in global markets, the 2007 Farm Bill should provide universal access. This access can only be effective if inequities of tariffs are addressed and balanced. The U. S cannot maximize agricultural trade or encourage future producers to enter agricultural production if the disparity of tariffs is not lessened.

Conservation and environmental goals can be achieved and supported if in this global economy, the policy accurately calculates commodity support in a free market. For continual product development and related issues, the U.S. agricultural market will be dependent on its ability to compete effectively.

Federal rural and farm programs should include standards of conduct or code of ethics for producers participating in any USDA program. For example: A producer or a participant should be not be eligible for federally aided programs if there is conflict of interest. Conflict of interest could be an elected official who supports landfill permits which typically discourages agricultural production. The USDA should control activities with voluntary council of governments whose programs are not compatible with USDA programs. For example: Some voluntary council of governments (in Texas) are advisory to the implementation of solid waste and disposal systems. If the solid waste plan developed does not exceed USDA (Natural Resource Conservation Service) environmental guidelines, the USDA affiliates or representatives should take a proactive role to encourage and protect agricultural development.

The conservation and environmental programs are a benefit to rural areas. It is always advantageous to invest in the sciences if we intend to keep our food sources protected.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. A response to my concerns will be respectfully accepted.

*Maureen M. Cruze*