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December 29, 2005

Secretary of Agriculture
Mr. Mike Johanns

Dear Mr. Johanns:

I am writing to you regarding the 2007 Farm Bill.

I am a grain and livestock producer from North Dakota so I am not biased against one practice nor the other.

My area of concern is the misuse of CRP. The land enrolled in CRP was put in this program to take land out of production and reduce soil erosion. Instead producers are farming every acre they have and are relying on CRP for their livestock feed. Some local producers have 100-200 head of cows but not have one acre of feed for the cows. They rely solely on CRP for their feed and are always pushing for CRP to be opened for haying or grazing. We went through three consecutive years of drought and I never cut one acre of CRP because of proper planning.

I feel that if they graze or cut CRP they should lose 100% payment on these acres.

Some producers do not cut their road ditches or do a very poor job of it because they want to get into those large CRP fields. This causes many accidents, even some deaths. This also raises our insurance premiums.

If my recommendations are followed it would raise the price of grain and we would not need to collect LDPs which would lower the federal deficit or the money saved on CRP payments could be set aside for disaster payments and not given year after year to the same producers who misuse the program.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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