



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**ALABAMA STATE HOUSE**  
**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130**

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 August 25, 2005

**COMMITTEES:**  
 CHAIRMAN, EDUCATION FINANCE AND  
 APPROPRIATIONS  
 CONTRACT REVIEW  
 TAX STRUCTURE  
 JOINT BUDGET  
 ENERGY COUNCIL

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
 Secretary of Agriculture  
 Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My name is Richard Lindsey, member of the Alabama House of Representatives from Cherokee County. For 8 years I chaired the House Agricultural Committee and currently chair the Education, Finance and Appropriations Committee. I am a cotton grower and ginner from Cherokee County, Alabama. I have several concerns I would like to convey to you relative to the next farm bill legislation:

1. There is not enough disaster and insurance protection for farmers because input cost have risen dramatically in recent years. For example, technology costs are excessive for genetically altered crops. Fuel and fertilizer currently have skyrocketed this past year.
2. Farmers simply can not survive with less subsidies given current market prices and current input cost.
3. We must, as a country, continue to produce enough food and fiber to feed and clothe ourselves and others if we intend to remain a free country.
4. America has already exported many jobs to foreign countries. The next farm bill must provide protection to Americans for jobs. Otherwise, we not only loose our farm economy, we will also loose most of a very fragile rural economy.
5. Every effort should be made to use the Farmer Service Agency as a primary delivery agent for farm programs.
6. Farm programs should be conducted for the producers rather than the landowners. For example, under the current program, a land owner can take land away from the producer and be paid a countercyclical. This is bad policy for producers.
7. Conservation programs seem to be effective. I encourage you to continue these especially the farm and ranch land protection.

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In summary, we must protect the American farmer in the next farm bill. Farmers must have, as a minimum, as much support as is in the current farm bill.

Thank you for you attention and support of these concepts.

Sincerely,

Richard Lindsey

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