Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

To help maintain the Farm Bill Energy Title’s successful clean energy development and job creation progress throughout America, we urge you to sustain the Title’s mandatory funding in Fiscal Year 2010 and to fund the Title’s authorized appropriations. With these investments, the Energy Title will continue to accelerate production of clean fuels and power and increase energy efficiency, while generating billions of dollars in new economic activity and boosting on-farm income and rural business income.

The Energy Title includes a number of successful programs, such as the Rural Energy for America Program, which is helping producers and rural businesses in every state in the country produce clean energy, cut costs, and reduce oil imports and help rural economic development. Another program, the Biomass Research and Development Act, is funding the new research needed to expand farm-based clean energy development.

New programs in the 2008 Farm Bill include, for example, the Biorefinery Assistance program, which provides critical financing for our nation’s first generation of commercial-scale advanced biorefineries; it reduces investor risk and provides well-paying construction and operation jobs in rural communities. The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program will support farmers and foresters who want to initiate production of biomass feedstock crops for advanced biofuels. And to stimulate demand for clean energy crops and help existing biofuel plants cut emissions, the Repowering Assistance program funds the conversion of those plants’ heating and power fuel supply to biomass.

While recognizing that the Subcommittee faces budgetary restraints, we believe that funding for these and other valuable programs in the Energy Title should receive priority consideration within a fiscally responsible appropriations bill. With strong bipartisan national interest in agriculture-based energy solutions, we urge you to sustain the Title’s mandatory funding in Fiscal Year 2010 and to fund the Title’s authorized appropriations.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jeff Fortenberry
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Dennis Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Debbie Halvorson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Neil Abercrombie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Harry Teague
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Peter Welch
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Bill Foster
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Jerry Moran
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Paul Hodes
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Aaron Schock
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