

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2006

The Honorable Henry Bonilla  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bonilla and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the Appropriations Committee enters the fiscal year 2007 appropriations cycle, we are writing to express our strong support for the USDA's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) recognizes the contribution of Rural America to our nation's prosperity and beauty. By providing incentives to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses, the FRPP helps farmers and ranchers across the nation preserve their land and the essential character of rural communities. We ask you to allow for \$97 million for this mandatory program in fiscal year 2007.

FRPP is a cooperative program in which the federal government works in concert with state, tribal and local governments and private organizations. These partnerships enable the program to better identify local needs and allow federal dollars to be leveraged to provide maximum benefits. In fact, since its inclusion into the 2002 Farm Bill, the FRPP has preserved more than 300,000 acres of farm and rangeland across the country. The program has leveraged more than \$250 million in federal funds with over \$500 million in local funding to help farmers and ranchers preserve their identity and rural landscapes.

FRPP helps ensure the food security of the nation, stabilizes rural communities by protecting high quality farm and rangeland, ensures regional food production, saves critical wildlife habitat, and helps family farmers and ranchers pass their land on to future generations of producers. We believe that FRPP is a vital tool in helping to preserve agricultural land that is being lost at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, once these lands are lost to outside pressures they are lost to agriculture forever.

For these reasons, we urge you to allow for full funding for this critical program at its farm bill level of \$97 million. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Kuhl, Jr.

  
Ben Chandler



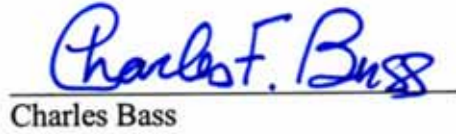
Tom Allen



Robert Andrews



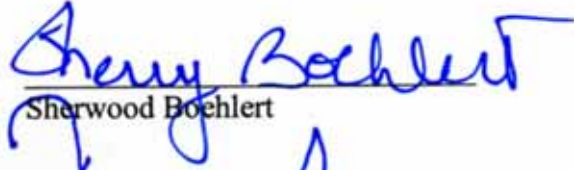
Tammy Baldwin



Charles Bass



Tim Bishop



Sherwood Boehlert



G.K. Butterfield



Dave Camp



Dennis Cardoza



Ed Case



Michael Castle



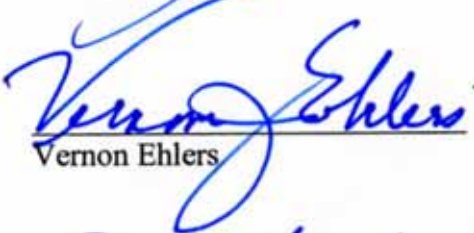
Jim Costa



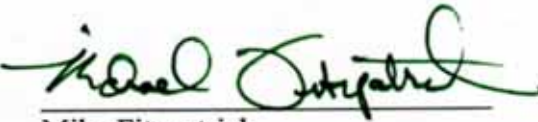
Lincoln Davis



John Dingell



Vernon Ehlers



Mike Fitzpatrick



Barney Frank



Scott Garrett



Jim Gerlach



Wayne Gilchrist

Brian Higgins  
Brian Higgins

Tim Holden  
Tim Holden

Rush Holt  
Rush Holt

Nancy Johnson  
Nancy Johnson

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Ron Kind

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Jim Langevin

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John Larson

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Marty Meehan

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Richard Neal

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Collin Peterson

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David Price

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Nick Rahall

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Tom Reynolds

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John Salazar

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Bernie Sanders

Jim Saxton

Jim Saxton

Christopher Shays

Christopher Shays

Rob Simmons

Rob Simmons

Louise Slaughter

Louise Slaughter

Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland

Lynn Woolsey

Lynn Woolsey

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen

Sue Kelly

Sue Kelly

Bill Pascrell Jr.

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