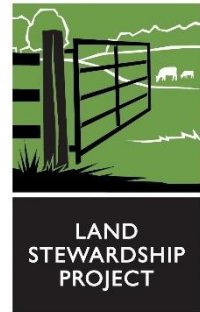


Tuesday, July 10, 2018

The Honorable Collin Peterson
2204 Rayburn Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Peterson,

We as farmers and ranchers across Minnesota believe that our federal farm policy should support our work to build soil health and conservation practices on our farms, especially as we are faced with a challenging farm economy. You are a national leader on the Farm Bill and we look to you to achieve a better Farm Bill that works for farmers and the land.

Both the House and Senate have passed versions of the Farm Bill that must now be reconciled. As an expected member of the conference committee, we ask that you do the two following things:

1. Support protecting the Conservation Stewardship Program as a stand-alone program with improvements, and work to maintain its current annual enrollment of 10 million new acres a year.

Minnesota farmers are leaders in the nation in enrolled acres in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The combined efforts of more than 4,300 farmers and ranchers in our state currently enrolled in CSP—totaling over 3.3 million acres and representing over 13% of Minnesota’s farmland—are generating positive outcomes for Minnesota’s soil, water and wildlife habitat. These outcomes benefit every Minnesotan. This provision is in the Senate bill.

2. Work to fix the federal crop insurance program by allowing farmers to use sound and voluntary “Good Farming Practices” like cover cropping on their farms without risk of losing their crop insurance coverage.

Incorporating cover crops into their operations is a practice more and more farmers are utilizing that has a multitude of benefits when it comes to soil health, nutrient and water retention, and long-term productivity. Federal crop insurance is also an important risk management tool for farmers, but crop insurance in its current form can deter the practice of cover cropping because of how it will impact their insurance policy. Crop insurance should encourage all conservation farming practices that mitigate risk, not act as barrier. This provision is in the Senate version of the bill.

Your leadership on the Farm Bill in past years has delivered results that have benefited family farmers and the land. Strong conservation policy in the 2018 Farm Bill is critical to providing farmers and ranchers with the tools and support needed to protect the land and water necessary for their livelihoods. It is also key to a good quality of life for all Minnesotans. We ask you to work in conference committee to support and advance strong conservation policy in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

The 165 undersigned farmers & ranchers of Minnesota

Cindy & Terry Hamilton, *Adams*
Steve Pearson, *Aitkin*
Eric Kreidermacher, *Altura*
Michelle Torgrimson, *Ashby*

Denise Zabinski, *Ashby**
Tim Stensland, *Badger*
Bryan Simon, *Barrett**
Alan Kaiser, *Belgrade**

Heidi Morlock, *Belle Plaine*
Paul Kvale, *Bemidji*
Matt Alford, *Blue Earth*
Jim Erdahl, *Blue Earth*
Dennis Biniek, *Bowlus*
Troy Thompson, *Brewster*
Mike Rooney, *Brooten**
Ted May, *Browerville*
David Rach, *Browerville**
Bonnie Haugen, *Canton*
Charles Kohmeyer, *Chatfield*
Annette Skrukrud, *Chatfield*
Megan Falvey, *Clarkfield**
Glenn Gelhar, *Clarkfield**
Dennis Compton, *Dassel**
Bruce West, *Dilworth**
Peter Little, *Dindas*
Elizabeth Olson, *Dodge Center*
Brad Giese, *Donnelly**
Sue & Charles Henry, *Dover*
Clinton Farlee, *Dupree*
Maurice Schimek, *Easton*
Bill Schrader, *Easton*
Larry Schneeberger, *Elbow Lake**
Roberta Muellerleile, *Elysian*
Scott Marpe, *Emmons*
Darvin Rocholl, *Erhard**
Bill Hein, *Faribault*
Nick Danielson, *Farwell*
John Butenhoff, *Fergus Falls**
Hannah Bernhardt, *Finlayson*
Jason Misik, *Finlayson*
Eric Sannerud, *Foley*
Ted Winter, *Fulda*
Charles Schmidt, *Garden City*
Kathryn Oldenburg, *Garfield**
Darrel Mosel, *Gaylord**
Mark Berle, *Gibbon*
Loretta & Martin Jaus, *Gibbon**
Kurt Schulz, *Glencoe**
Bill Gorman, *Goodhue*
Duane Hoeft, *Grand Meadow*
Dave Schaffer, *Hastings*
Evan Schmeling, *Hayfield*
Kally Goschke Skelley, *Henderson**
Sally Reinitz, *Henderson*
Scott Vizecky, *Hendricks**
Harold Freyholtz, *Hewitt**

Diane Crane, *Houston*
Michael Gilles, *Houston*
Laura Frerichs, *Hutchinson**
Irene Genelin, *Hutchinson**
Dave Baker, *Isanti*
Dennis Kowalik, *Isanti*
Matthew Tentis, *Kellogg*
Melissa Driscoll, *Kenyon*
James Van Der Pol, *Kerkhoven**
Charles Skemp, *La Crescent*
Chris Hitzeman, *Lake Andes*
Dan Deutz, *Lake Benton**
Steven Schwen, *Lake City*
Shawn Simonson, *Lake Crystal*
Jerry & Nancy Ackermann, *Lakefield*
Ryan Batalden, *Lamberton**
Jane Peck, *Lanesboro*
Timothy Nuessmeier, *Le Sueur*
Jennifer Rupprecht, *Lewiston*
Linda Ahrndt, *Litchfield*
Joan & Nick Olson, *Litchfield**
Bruce Marquette, *Little Falls*
Doug Ploof, *Little Falls*
Carol Schmidt, *Little Falls*
Arlene Brinkmann, *Long Prairie Tom*
Gray, *Long Prairie**
Paul Aukes, *Luverne*
Gerald Peter, *Mabel*
James Connor, *Madison**
Carmen Fernholz, *Madison**
August Goettl, *Mankato*
Jerry Cooper, *Marlette*
Rod VanderZiel, *Marshall**
Marvin Boike, *Maynard**
Candace Marx, *Mazeppa*
Robert Thompson, *Mcintosh** James
Myhre, *Minneota**
Elizabeth Oness, *Minnesota City*
Ernie Broekemeier, *Morgan*
Terry Dybdahl, *Morris**
Kathy Zeman, *Nerstrand**
Caroline van Schaik, *New Hartford*
Frank Bisek, *New Prague*
Susan Griebel, *New Ulm*
Linda Dahl, *Northfield*
Angela Smith, *Oronoco*
Karen & Timothy Burdick, *Ortonville**
Mike Souhrada, *Ostrander*

Duane Goeden, *Park Rapids*
Linda Liestman, *Paynesville**
Richard Mueller, *Paynesville**
Michael Kaminski, *Perham**
Tom Pyfferoen, *Pine Island*
Lisa Smith, *Pipestone**
Thomas Hoekstra, *Plainview*
Paul Krueger, *Prior Lake*
Randal Freiborg, *Renville**
Mike Steinfeldt, *Ridgeway*
Loren Donovan, *Rochester*
Wesley Otto, *Roseau**
Don Hannaman, *Rosemount*
Leann Jacobson, *Rushford*
Jerome Graff, *Sanborn*
Stanley Kuehn, *Sanborn**
Beth Everett, *Scottsbluff*
Lorin Helget, *Sleepy Eye*
Randy Krzmarzick, *Sleepy Eye*
Madonna & David Sellner, *Sleepy Eye*
Paul Conklin, *Solway**
Dayna Burtness, *Spring Grove*
Myron Sylling, *Spring Grove*
Vincent Ready, *St. Charles*
Mike Martinson, *St. Charles*
Dean Richards, *St. Charles*
Bob Christie, *St. Charles*
Tom Nuessmeier, *St. Peter*

Mary Jo Forbord, *Starbuck**
Rod Morlock, *Stewartville*
Brian Axdahl, *Stillwater*
Brian Axdahl, *Stillwater*
John Mueller, *Stillwater*
Guy Wolf, *Stoddard*
Steven Fellbaum, *Swanville*
Jay Jones, *Trail City*
Tom Hunter, *Wabasha*
Paul Sobocinski, *Wabasso**
Chris Von Holten, *Walnut*
Scott Pahlen, *Warroad**
Betsy Allister & Andrew Ehrmann, *Waterford Township*
Todd Lemke, *Watkins**
Anna Racer, *Webster*
Peter Skold, *Webster*
Beth Slocum, *Welch*
Gerald Butenhoff, *Winona*
Helen Davis, *Winona*
Doug Nopar, *Winona*
Dean Nordaune, *Woodlake**
Paul Hohensee, *Worthington*
Alan Langseth, *Worthington*
Janaki Fisher-Merritt, *Wrenshall*
Joe Austin, *Wukoff*
Rodney Vorwerk, *Wykoff*

* residents of Minnesota's seventh congressional district