

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2005

**REAFFIRMING CONGRESS' CONTRACT WITH AGRICULTURE ESTABLISHED
IN THE 2002 FARM BILL**

On May 13, 2002 the President signed into law legislation passed by Congress entitled the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002" also known as the 2002 Farm Bill.

The 2002 Farm Bill made vital investments in nutrition, conservation, rural development, and farm commodity programs.

By correcting the deficiencies of the "Freedom to Farm Act", also known as the 1996 Farm Bill, agriculture spending is 40% less than under the 1996 Farm Bill.

The 2002 Farm Bill has cost \$15B less than was estimated when it originally was enacted.

The 2002 Farm Bill is not responsible for the \$484B budget deficit.

Average mandatory spending is expected to rise by 5.6% from 2006 to 2010 while agriculture mandatory spending is projected to decline by 13%, on average per year.

Agriculture mandatory spending is being cut by 5.6% from 2006 to 2010 while all other mandatory spending is being cut 0.6%.

Agriculture is 1% of all mandatory spending, but 8% of all mandatory spending cuts.

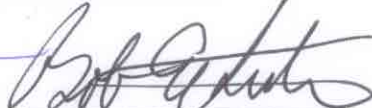
Agriculture discretionary spending is being cut by 9.6% while all other discretionary spending (excluding defense and homeland security) is being cut by 0.3%.

The President's Budget unfairly targets agriculture and makes disproportionate and draconian cuts to the safety net established by the 2002 Farm Bill.

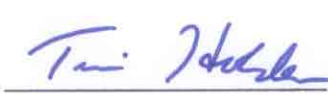
Our foreign competitors already outspend us 6 to 1 when it comes to assistance for farmers. These cuts will further exacerbate that tremendous disadvantage.

We the undersigned pledge to fight reopening the 2002 Farm Bill and reaffirm our original commitment to Agriculture and Rural America made in the 2002 Farm Bill.

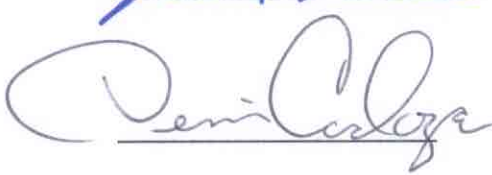

Tom Harkin

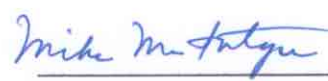

Bob Latta

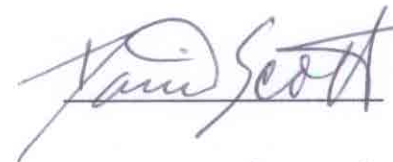

Joe Baes

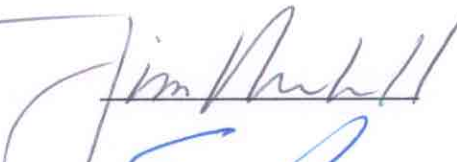

Tim Wirth

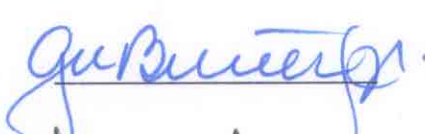

Ed Case


Dennis Cooney


Mike McIntyre

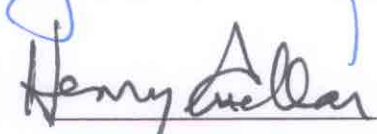

Tim Scott

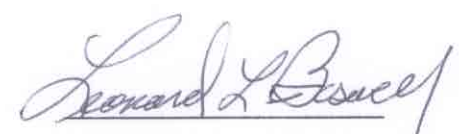

Jim Risch


Greg Brummett

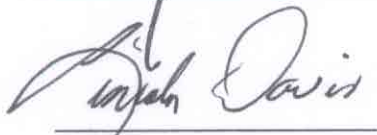

Ben Chandler

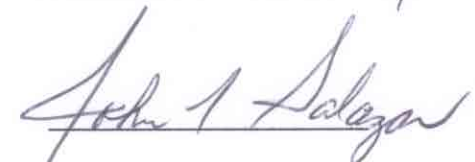

Eric Lipton

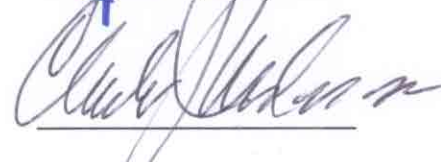

Henry Cuellar



Leonard L. Bissace


Jim Hahn

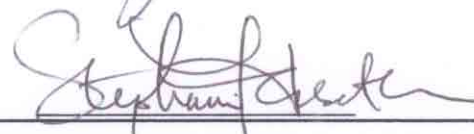

Joseph Davis


John A. Salazar


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