Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture 14th and Independence Avenues, S.W. Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write in support of Illinois Governor Pat Quinn's request for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration to help Illinois farmers, families, and communities affected by the current drought.

Agricultural producers in Illinois are experiencing significant losses due to a persistent, unprecedented, statewide heat and drought. The Illinois Department of Agriculture and representatives of the Farm Service Agency in Illinois are working to expedite assistance to Illinois farmers affected by these weather events.

We thank you in advance for your prompt review and support of the State of Illinois' request for all eligible counties. We stand ready to support you and the Governor in efforts to minimize the impact of these current, damaging conditions on Illinois farm families.

Sincerely,

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Mr. Cuttur

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Del Dil

Mike Gringly

Rolf Dell

Jam Selah

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Both L. Mills