

DAVID LOEBSACK

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

August 16, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

I write to again express my strong concern and opposition to the Majority's decision to send the House of Representatives on vacation for the month of August a day early without action on a critical piece of legislation to Iowa's economy, the farm bill. With much of the U.S. experiencing the worst drought since the 1950's, it is more important than ever that we provide farmers and livestock/poultry producers the certainty they need through a new farm bill along with drought relief measures.

I call on you to immediately bring the House back into session and pass a reformed farm bill that reduces the deficit and also contains disaster relief for farmers and livestock/poultry producers. I am dismayed that the House is not scheduled to return until September 10 while the Senate has already passed a long-term and reformed farm bill that contributes billions to deficit reduction and is awaiting House action. Allowing farm policy to revert back to 1940's policy would have devastating effects and action must be taken immediately.

I have been walking the rows with farmers since the heat wave and drought began to affect Iowa and now nearly all the counties I represent are experiencing extreme drought. USDA estimates one of the worst conditions for corn and soybeans since the 1980's. Rural communities and small businesses throughout Iowa are also heavily dependent on agriculture thriving – everything from coffee shops to manufacturers to equipment dealers. A reformed farm bill that also addresses rural development is critical to the farm economy's prosperity and its contribution to economic recovery.

Unfortunately, the National Weather Service predicts the drought is expected to develop, persist, or intensify across affected areas, and temperatures are likely to continue to average above normal. While our fields continue to wither, it is truly the height of irresponsibility that the House has gone on vacation before addressing a reformed farm bill that also contains needed disaster relief. I again strongly urge you to bring the House back into session and address these important issues for our agricultural economy.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack
Iowa's Second District