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Congress of the United States
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July 25, 2012

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

Dear Speaker Boehner,

I write to express my extreme concern over press reports that a yearlong extension of the old farm bill may be brought up. I strongly urge you to instead bring up a new reformed farm bill that will save money, provide farmers certainty for the long-term, and provide disaster assistance to our farmers and livestock producers affected by the historic drought.

Recently, I introduced bipartisan legislation with my colleagues from Iowa to extend expired disaster aid programs through 2012. The purpose of this legislation is to bring attention to the drought, but also the need to act on a new farm bill for long-term certainty for farmers in these difficult conditions. I have also previously brought the importance of passing a farm bill as soon as possible to your attention on three separate occasions. The bipartisan Iowa Delegation is united in calling for the farm bill to be passed, and I strongly believe Congress should not recess until work is complete.

Agriculture has been one of the bright spots as we work to recover from the recession and our rural communities throughout Iowa and the U.S. are heavily dependent on agriculture thriving – everything from coffee shops to manufacturers to restaurants. Passage of a reformed farm bill that addresses disaster assistance and rural development is critical to continuing the farm economy's prosperity and its contribution to economic recovery.

To pass a short-term extension of existing policy and use the drought gripping the nation in order to provide the appearance of action before a month-long break for Congress will not be enough to address these critical issues. We must have action on a reformed farm bill, not band-aids.

We are experiencing the worst drought since 1956 with 61 percent of the country in drought which is expected to develop, persist, or intensify throughout key agricultural areas like Iowa. I again respectfully urge you to move forward a reformed farm bill that addresses drought issues and not take up another short-term extension that merely kicks the can down the road.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack
Iowa's Second District