

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2008

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

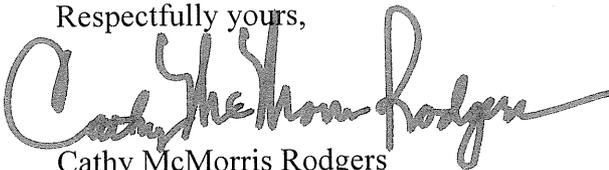
Dear Colleagues,

We write to request that pulse crops be given full program crop status in an equitable manner in the 2008 Farm Bill. The producers we represent need a full range of viable rotational crops to operate successfully in the diverse climates found in the Northern Plains and the Pacific Northwest, a role pulse crops fill quite well.

Pulses are the only crops facing sharp loan rate cuts in both the House and Senate versions of the farm bill. The Senate does provide for establishment of pulse crop bases and income support under the counter-cyclical program. We ask that this step in the right direction be expanded to include a direct payment for pulse crops as well, and that these support levels be set at levels equitable to other crops grown in our region.

We understand the financial constraints the budget is placing on your efforts to complete the farm bill. But reducing the loan rates for pulse crops did provide additional funds that should help offset the cost of providing full program crop status for these crops. We stand ready to work with you to address these concerns in an adequate manner, and to help you complete action on this important legislation in the coming weeks.

Respectfully yours,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



John T. Salazar
Member of Congress



Bill Sali
Member of Congress



Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Rehberg". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the start of the first name.

Dennis Rehberg
Member of Congress