



Midwestern Governors Association

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July 15, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Senators Reid and McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and  
Congressman Boehner:

We wanted to convey our appreciation and congratulations on last  
month's passage of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act,  
commonly referred to as the farm bill. This is a monumental piece of  
legislation and is a welcome solution to a long process.

The provisions in the farm bill are of great importance to the members  
of the Midwest Governors Association (MGA), as the programs are  
directly related to the interests and livelihoods of our states. As you  
may recall, the MGA provided a publication outlining the policy  
objectives and recommendations the Midwest governors had on the  
farm bill. We hope these were helpful and applicable to you as you  
wrote, debated and passed this important piece of legislation.

The current debate over biofuels, food prices, and growth of rural  
areas has highlighted the importance of programs and issues that the  
farm bill contains. States have long been active in the improvement of  
farm, conservation, rural and energy sectors of the economy. Through  
the passage of this bill, Congress has reaffirmed its ability to be a  
partner with states and regions in the development of policies of  
importance to agricultural and rural communities.

Going forward in implementing the farm bill, the MGA is looking  
forward to working with Congress and the U.S. Departments of  
Agriculture and Energy, among other federal departments and  
agencies.

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South Dakota

Vice Chair  
**Jennifer Granholm**  
Michigan

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Illinois

**Matt Blunt**  
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**Kathleen Sebelius**  
Kansas

**Ted Strickland**  
Ohio

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota and Chair,  
Midwestern Governors Association



Jennifer Granholm  
Governor of Michigan and Vice Chair,  
Midwestern Governors Association

cc: The Honorable Ed Schafer, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Samuel Bodman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy  
The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chair, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
The Honorable Collin Peterson, Chair, House Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee  
Midwestern Congressional Delegation