

October 15, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairwoman, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Hart 331  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Dirksen 455  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Chairman, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein, Chairman Dicks, Ranking Member Alexander and Ranking Member Simpson,

On behalf of America's livestock and poultry producers, the undersigned organizations wish to highlight certain provisions included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that are a high priority for our organizations. America's livestock and poultry producers are committed to enhancing the quality and safety of U.S. food products. We are committed to continuous improvement in production practices, including protecting the environment, while producing wholesome and affordable food products for consumers around the world. The provision highlighted below will help the U.S. livestock and poultry industries continue to achieve these objectives and priorities.

America's livestock and poultry producers urge conferees to support the following:

- **Accede to House language restricting the implementation of any rule requiring the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management system in place on livestock farms.** Under current EPA regulations, livestock producers who emit over the equivalent of 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide are required to calculate and report the level of those emissions. This requirement treats farms in a manner identical to coal-fired power plants and petroleum refineries. It imposes an onerous requirement on livestock producers to ascertain emissions from diffuse sources. While studies are currently underway around the country to better comprehend the level of emissions from livestock operations, the data from those studies has not yet been formulated, and as such, producers will be placed in the position of reporting emission levels with little ability to ascertain their accuracy.

In addition, by requiring the installation and operation of costly, specialized monitoring equipment on those farms that have made the significant investment to cap their manure lagoons and install anaerobic digesters, EPA's regulations act as a perverse disincentive to the ongoing efforts of the agriculture sector to help develop vital sources of renewable energy. The language in the House-passed bill corrects both of these problems by allowing producers to continue to work toward the full understanding of their climate impact without suffering the burden of reporting less-than-accurate emission levels while protecting from unfair penalties those producers who are seeking to develop renewable energy systems.

Given the economic crisis currently affecting the entire domestic livestock and poultry sector, as well as the ongoing efforts of livestock and poultry producers to complete in 2010 a nationwide study that will shed much light on the air and greenhouse gas emissions of their farms, this narrowly targeted amendment will provide necessary relief to livestock and poultry producers. Thank you for your time and for being a friend of America's livestock and poultry producers.

Sincerely,

American Sheep Industry Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation

cc: Members of the U.S House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies