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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2504

September 23, 2008

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The Honorable Ed Schafer
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary,

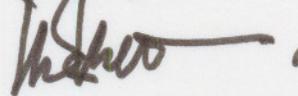
In recent weeks, I have been contacted by a number of Missouri farmers who have expressed their concern with respect to USDA's implementation of certain Farm Bill programs.

Specifically, I have heard concerns that USDA may use 2006-2007 crop prices rather than 2007-2008 crop prices to establish targets for the Average Crop Revenue Election program; that USDA may not allow farmers who own scattered small plots of land to aggregate their holdings to meet a new government assistance threshold; that USDA may write country-of-origin labeling rules in a way that jeopardizes the fragile balance worked out in Congress; and that USDA has not satisfactorily explained eligibility requirements for the new Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs as they pertain to losses incurred this year.

As a representative of rural America, I worked with my colleagues in Congress to enact a very good Farm Bill that keeps in place a strong safety net for U.S. producers, invests in rural America, and promotes nutrition for our nation's most vulnerable citizens. Though I realize that you worked to defeat the Farm Bill in Congress and that the President vetoed the measure, I very much hope you will implement the bill in a way that best adheres to congressional intent. Anything less would be a terrible disservice to American farmers and to the public at large.

I look forward to hearing your views on Farm Bill implementation and to working with you and with my colleagues on the Hill to ensure the intent of Congress is followed during the implementation process.

Sincerely,



IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress