

May 13, 2013

Dear Senator Donnelly:

We support your effort with Senator Roberts to improve risk management options for biomass crops in the 2013 Farm Bill. This common sense effort would grant farmers a base level risk management program for biomass crops as well as other substantive options needed in the future.

Currently, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) exists to provide a base level of disaster protection to growers who are not covered by crop specific insurance policies. While demand for biomaterials is increasing, its growers do not currently fall under the safety nets of this program. The Donnelly-Roberts amendment clarifies that growers of biomass crops producing feedstock for energy and biomaterials qualify for NAP coverage. As more biomass crops are grown in the future, data can be gathered through NAP coverage and more substantial risk management options can be considered.

Additionally, there are two new sorghum crops being tailored to meet energy and bioproduct developments. These crops are economically attractive and have the ability to grow throughout much of the United States, including Indiana. In fact, a 2012 study by researchers at Purdue University, University of Nebraska, Cornell University, and University of Illinois point to these sorghum crops as highly promising feedstocks. But while growers are interested, these new energy crops are not covered under insurance policies traditional crops are afforded. Your amendment would give these promising new sustainable energy crops the opportunity to be researched for the potential development of risk management insurance tools to provide growers adequate protection.

The Donnelly-Roberts amendment provides a logical safety net for farmers who wish to strengthen crop practices and cultivate new crops for energy and biomaterial production. We thank you for offering this amendment.

Sincerely,

Advanced Biofuels Association  
Agriculture Energy Coalition  
Advanced Ethanol Council  
BIO  
Growth Energy  
National Sorghum Producers  
Renewable Fuels Association