

March 14, 2013

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Sen. :

Today, the Senate is scheduled to consider H.R. 933, the *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013*. During the debate, you may be asked to cast votes on amendments regarding issues important to farmers and ranchers.

Farm Bureau opposes Section 742, which requires USDA to rescind existing Packers and Stockyards Act regulations that provide common-sense transparency, disclosure and capital investment protections for poultry farmers in their contract relationship with poultry companies. These regulations are critical to protect poultry farmers. If an amendment is offered to strike the provisions of Section 742, Farm Bureau asks that you support that amendment.

Farm Bureau supports Section 735, which clarifies the secretary of agriculture's authority to partially deregulate a biotechnology trait by introducing temporary stewardship requirements that allow farmers to continue to grow and harvest a crop previously deemed safe and deregulated but is being challenged in court. If an amendment is offered to strike the provisions of Section 735, Farm Bureau asks that you oppose that amendment.

Farm Bureau supports Sen. Inhofe's amendment to prevent EPA from enforcing the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule against farmers through the end of the fiscal year. The agricultural community has attempted to work with EPA on this rulemaking and urged the agency to conduct greater outreach to farmers to educate them on this regulation. Unfortunately, EPA has only held three national outreach programs for farmers to come into compliance with the rule, and the last outreach program was in 2011. Allowing more time for education among farmers and ranchers can help eliminate the large amount of confusion that surrounds this rule. Moreover, we believe such an approach is appropriate, particularly given the fact that there is no history of problematic spills from agricultural operations.

Thank you for considering the interests of the farmers and ranchers who produce our nation's food, fiber and energy as you debate and vote on H.R. 933, the *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013*.

Sincerely,



Bob Stallman
President