



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

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June 25, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) appreciates very much all the work House Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson, Chairman Waxman, and Speaker Pelosi did to improve the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" for agriculture. The package of amendments that Chairman Peterson plans to offer on the House floor will go far toward making offset participation a reality for many agriculture producers, and will provide other benefits. We commend both Chairmen and the Speaker for these efforts.

Nevertheless, despite these improvements, we continue to have significant concerns with the legislation. NCBA members are responsible environmental stewards who respect and care for the land, air, water, and animals that are fundamental to sustaining our way of life. Our members are very concerned, however, about the effects the climate bill could have on their costs of fuel, electricity, feed, fertilizer, equipment, and other inputs necessary to maintain a cattle operation, as well as the costs of potential future regulation. Economists have estimated that the climate change bill would cause farm income to drop anywhere from \$8 billion in the short term to \$50 billion long term. The cattle industry has suffered significant economic setbacks lately, and if these estimates are close to being accurate, this bill would very likely push many operations over the edge.

Cattle producers will continue to work every day to protect and improve the environment so that they and future generations will be able to continue to live off the land and feed our nation and the rest of the world, but NCBA must oppose any bill that could cause significant financial hardship to our members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Voogt".

Gary Voogt
President

AMERICA'S CATTLE INDUSTRY

Denver

Washington D.C.

Chicago