

October 5, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations, representing America's farmers and ranchers, remain deeply concerned with the status and direction of the Doha round of WTO agricultural negotiations. Correcting the severe imbalance reflected in the current agriculture text between sharp reductions and limitations on domestic support for U.S. agriculture and undefined or far weaker commitments on market access by our trading partners in a significant and substantive manner is essential to secure the support of American agriculture.

In our letter to you of June 1, 2006, we made clear that the level of ambition in cutting trade distorting domestic support must be commensurate with the level of ambition in obtaining access to both developed and developing country markets. Unfortunately, the current text for the agriculture negotiations proposes to further reduce U.S. domestic support well below the U.S. offer of October 2005, while the ranges for overall tariff cuts are set lower than those proposed by the United States. Even more troubling, the current agriculture text does not address key measures that could seriously erode any market access gains. These measures include the treatment of Sensitive Products, the extent and treatment of Special Products, and the design and application of a Special Safeguard Mechanism. Our current assessment is that, unless very significant improvements are made in each of these areas, the text offers little hope of achieving balance between what the U.S. is being asked to give up in reduced domestic support and what our trading partners are offering on increased market access.

We continue to support a Doha agreement that reforms trade-distorting agricultural practices and opens world markets to expanded agricultural trade. We strongly urge you and your negotiators to insist on market access gains commensurate with our domestic support commitments. We look forward to working closely with you to achieve a successful outcome to these negotiations.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Sorghum Producers  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice Federation  
U.S. Canola Association

cc. Acting Secretary Chuck Conner  
USTR Susan Schwab  
Special Doha Agriculture Envoy Joe Glauber  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
House Committee on Agriculture