



April 24, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chair, House Agriculture Committee  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member, House Ag Committee  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Stabenow and Roberts and Representatives Lucas and Peterson:

On behalf of more than 150 companies, universities, laboratories, and individuals who are members of the Algal Biomass Organization (ABO), I strongly urge you to include in the Farm Bill a strong Energy Title with mandatory funding.

ABO members, like all other biofuel stakeholders, have made great strides in the past few years with regard to development of products which can supplement US fossil fuel supplies. Algae-based fuel is domestically produced and can be used directly in place of existing transportation fuels. While we are not ready to sell algae-based fuel commercially, the work done by ABO members has significantly increased the likelihood that algae-based fuel will be commercial in the next five to ten years.

We must keep a long-term perspective with regard to biofuels, just as we have with fossil fuels. As you know, the 2002 Farm Bill was the first omnibus farm bill to include an Energy Title. Eliminating this title after only 10 years would come in sharp contrast to the government support afforded other sources of fuel.

The federal government has been supporting oil sand research and development for more than 50 years and shale oil research and development for more than 60 years. We expect that in 10 years or less, the biofuels industry will be contributing significantly to America's energy supply. However, federal support through the Farm Bill Energy Title is critical to our continued momentum. The same support that has been provided to the oil and gas industries for decades.

For example, according to the Congressional Research Service, "Interest in U.S. oil sand deposits dates back to the 1930s. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, 52 pilot projects involving mining and in-situ techniques were supported by the U.S. government. . ." Furthermore, according to a Department of

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Energy Report, “As early as the 1940’s the U.S. Department of the Interior. . . was engaged in oil shale research. . . [and] DOE has had a Shale Oil program since the 1970’s.”

The Farm Bill Energy Programs will continue to create American jobs. They will support the research, development, deployment and commercialization of domestically produced transportation fuels. They will, without a doubt, be a key element of America’s energy independence.

Again, I urge you to support a strong Farm Bill Energy Title with mandatory spending. I would be happy to meet with you and your staff to discuss the importance of the Energy Title in more detail.

Sincerely,

*Mary Rosenthal*

Mary Rosenthal

cc: House and Senate Agriculture Committee Members

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