



June 5, 2008

Senator John Thune
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

America's family farmers and ranchers appreciate your leadership in introducing an amendment to the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (S. 3036) that would repeal the 15 percent cap on domestic offset allowances to ensure incentives exist to capture the maximum greenhouse gas emissions.

Agriculture can and is playing a significant role in addressing global climate change through carbon sequestration practices and methane capture on livestock operations, while at the same time providing economic opportunities throughout rural America. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that agricultural soils and forestry lands have the potential to sequester enough carbon to offset 20 percent of the United States' annual emissions. Currently, soils sequestration is estimated to offset approximately 1 percent of emissions.

Capping the amount of domestic offset allowances at 15 percent of the total requirement appears to be an artificial number in light of the science. Policies to address climate change should create incentives to capturing as many greenhouse gas emissions as possible, not the opposite.

National Farmers Union serves as the largest aggregator of agriculture carbon credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Today, more than 2,800 landowners in 32 states have enrolled a total of 3.6 million acres in the program. In the first year alone, our carbon credit program earned more than \$2.5 million for producers. This is a clear demonstration that family farmers and ranchers are ready and willing to be part of the solution.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. I look forward to working with you to ensure this issue is addressed in the climate change debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Buis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tom Buis, President
National Farmers Union