



**NATIONAL
FARMERS
UNION**

July 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the family farmers, ranchers, and rural resident members of National Farmers Union (NFU), I would like to offer my sincere thanks for your outstanding leadership in addressing America's energy crisis, most recently by calling upon the president to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

America's farmers and ranchers echo your call to the president and most certainly agree that at today's energy prices, our country is entrenched in an emergency.

Production agriculture is very energy intensive, and as price-takers, not price-makers, producers have no ability to pass their increased costs forward. The 2008 winter wheat harvest is nearly finished and I have heard from many producers who are struggling to break-even due to record high energy costs. Spring wheat harvest is just around the corner, followed by other commodity harvest seasons; the inability to break-even due to sky-high energy costs will undoubtedly be a repeated story throughout the countryside. Unfortunately, this side of agriculture's story is not relayed in urban media outlets, which prefer to villainize farmers.

Your call to the president combined with a comprehensive energy tax package, legislation to address market speculation and continued focus to develop renewable energies will all prove beneficial to reducing our dependence on foreign oil and becoming an energy independent nation.

Again, I thank you for your continued leadership on addressing our energy challenges and look forward to working with you in any way possible to secure our rural economy and become energy independent.

Sincerely,

Tom Buis, President
National Farmers Union