



July 21, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the farm, ranch and rural member families of National Farmers Union (NFU), I write to express strong support for your recently introduced legislation, the Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act of 2008 (S.3268). This legislation will help address price volatility in the energy futures market, which in turn will help in resolving the volatility America's farmers and ranchers deal with everyday in regards to skyrocketing energy inputs.

As opportunities to make profits have waned on Wall Street, large investment firms have shifted billions of dollars into the futures markets in an attempt to maximize return on investment. This has led many to believe that the excessive speculation is driving energy prices artificially higher, jeopardizing our economy.

The Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act of 2008 is necessary to ensure a properly functioning energy futures market. Increasing transparency, ensuring foreign exchanges follow the same rules of U.S. exchanges, reining in excessive speculation and restoring CFTC regulatory oversight of over-the-counter (OTC) energy futures trading will help protect consumers and agricultural producers from price gouging and market manipulation.

The Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act of 2008 is an important step toward injecting transparency and addressing cost concerns in the volatile energy futures market. Additionally, NFU believes that Congress should consider measures to increase transparency in all other commodity markets including agricultural commodities. We have already seen the affects of excessive speculation in the agricultural markets this year and we must ensure that excessive speculation does not further jeopardize the functioning of these markets.

I look forward to working with you to continue advocating the interests of rural America with this important and necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Buis, President  
National Farmers Union