



**NATIONAL
FARMERS
UNION**

July 24, 2008

The Honorable Nicholas V. Lampson
U.S. House of Representatives
436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lampson:

On behalf of the family farmers, ranchers, and rural resident members of National Farmers Union (NFU), I write in support of the Consumer Energy Supply Act of 2008, your legislation to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Your legislation will help address the United States' growing energy crisis.

America's farmers and ranchers echoed Speaker Pelosi's recent call to the president to open the Reserve and appreciate your legislative efforts to ensure that action occurs.

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 producers across the country 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 economic struggle due to sky-high energy costs will undoubtedly be a repeated story throughout the countryside.

Your legislation, 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 leadership in introducing the Consumer Energy Supply Act to address our energy challenges. I look forward to working with you in any way possible to secure America's rural economy and help the United States become energy independent.

Sincerely,

Tom Buis, President
National Farmers Union