

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Farm Subsidies for Manhattan "Farmers?"

Dear Colleague:

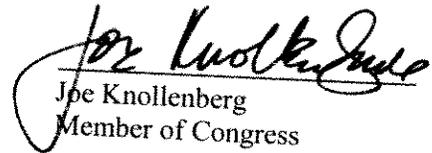
As deliberations on the Farm Bill continue, we would like to urge negotiators to prioritize funding to those it was originally intended to assist instead of providing additional income for hundreds of wealthy urban "farmers" in Manhattan. In 2005, the last year for which complete data is available, over 300 New Yorkers received farm subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Among these urban farmers are at least two billionaires, a former CEO of Seagrams, and numerous Wall Street power brokers. For example, a member of the prestigious Rockefeller family has received \$228,000 in subsidies over the last five years and a New York venture capitalist received a payment of nearly \$75,000 in 2005.

This is truly an example of government waste. The American taxpayer deserves better than having their taxpayer dollars used to pay urban "farmers" in Manhattan.

Sincerely,



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress



Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress

FARM SUBSIDY BENEFICIARIES IN MANHATTAN:

