

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2008

**The Latest Data Confirms:
Farm Subsidies Still Skewed Away From Family Farmers**

Dear Colleague:

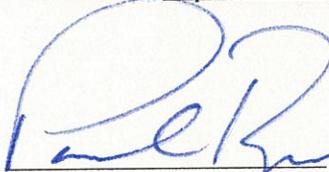
As conferees continue to work on a reauthorization of the Farm Bill, we would like to bring to your attention the Environmental Working Group's release of its updated Farm Subsidy Database, which reflects the latest available data on farm payments and subsidy recipients from 2006. A quick review of the database reveals that farm subsidy payments are concentrated in the hands of very few recipients and are often provided to those who do not truly need them – rather than working family farmers. In addition, many wealthy Americans living in urban areas continue to benefit from our nation's farm programs.

Among the information found in the database includes the following:

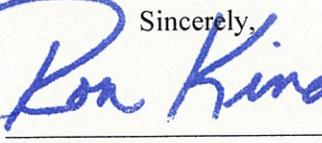
- In 2006, the top 10% of recipients received 62% of all farm payments.
- Since 1995, the top 10% of recipients have collected 74% of all farm payments.
- Just 22 Congressional Districts received more than 50% of total subsidies in 2006.
- Over two-thirds of farms received no subsidies in 2006.
- Half of all subsidies in 2006 went to only nine states.
- 65 entities received farm payments of more than \$1 million in 2006.
- Since 1995, 47 entities have received total farm payments of more than \$10 million.
- Nearly 1,400 residents of New York City have received subsidies since 1995.
- At least twelve Fortune 500 companies have received payments in recent years, including Eli Lilly, which received subsidies as recently as 2006.
- Several members of the Rockefeller family and heirs to the Walton fortune received payments in 2006.

In the context of skyrocketing food prices and record level farm income, we hope the Farm Bill conferees will consider many of these problems associated with our current policy. More information on the database can be found at <http://farm.ewg.org/farm/>.

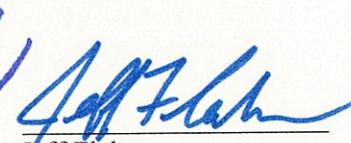
Sincerely,



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress



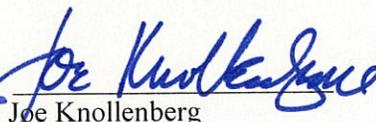
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



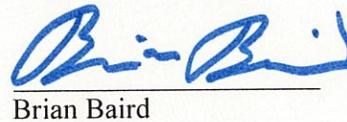
Jeff Flake
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress



Brian Baird
Member of Congress