



**National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English  
Chief Executive Officer

July 25, 2007

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chairman  
House Agriculture Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Ranking Member  
House Agriculture Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Goodlatte:

I am writing on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to express our strong support for the 2007 Farm Bill. NRECA appreciates your efforts to craft a bi-partisan bill which will provide nutrition assistance, rural development opportunities, environmental benefits, renewable energy products and a safe, stable food supply.


NRECA works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and our private sector lenders to provide financing options to meet the capital needs of rural electric cooperatives. This public/private partnership promotes sustainable community and economic development in rural America through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. It is important to note that electric cooperatives serve over 41 million Americans in 47 states and maintain 43 percent of the distribution lines across the country.

The 2007 Farm Bill includes key provisions that not only invest in rural communities nationwide, but will also leverage additional private investment in those same communities. In these times of limited federal resources and a commitment to fiscal discipline, we applaud your leadership and ingenuity in meeting these growing capital needs.

We fully appreciate the difficult choices faced by the House Agriculture Committee in crafting this important legislation. Ultimately, you produced a bill that is good for rural America and deserves broad support by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thank you again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,



Glenn English