

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
328 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
328 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chairman  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

We write today to request that you retain the Pulse School Pilot Program (Section 4206) and the Pulse Health Initiative (Section 7208) of, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 (S.954) during negotiations on a farm bill conference report.

The Pulse School Pilot Program would authorize a five year pilot program to provide healthy and cost effective pulse crop products to schools. Pulse crops including dry beans, dry peas, chickpeas and lentils offer the potential to help schools stretch their food budgets by providing them with low-cost, pulse crops that are high in fiber and potassium. At the end of the five-year pilot program the United States Department of Agriculture would report to Congress on the effectiveness of the program. This provision was added to the Senate farm bill in 2012 by a floor amendment. The Pulse School Pilot provision was retained in the Senate farm bill that passed the Senate 66-27 on June 10, 2013.

The Pulse Health Initiative would support expanded research into the health and nutritional benefits of pulse crops, including their ability to reduce obesity and chronic disease. Currently, seventeen percent of adolescents aged 12-19 are obese which puts them at increased risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Pulse crops have the potential to reduce obesity and diabetes, and improve heart health because they are high in dietary fiber and low in fat. More research is needed into how to incorporate pulse crops into a healthy diet, how to grow them more efficiently and how they benefit human health.

Again, we want to express our strong support for retaining the Pulse School Pilot and Pulse Health Initiative in the final farm bill conference report.

Sincerely,



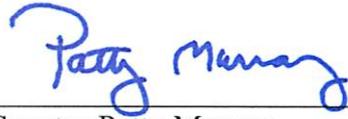
Senator Maria Cantwell



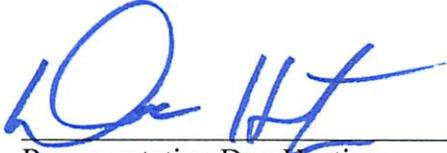
Senator Mike Crapo



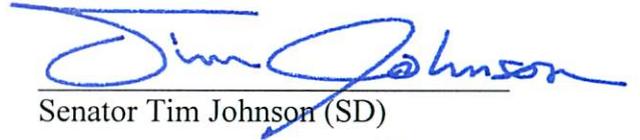
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers



Senator Patty Murray



Representative Doc Hastings



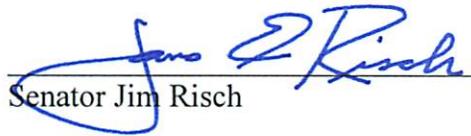
Senator Tim Johnson (SD)



Representative Mike Simpson



Senator Jon Tester



Senator Jim Risch



Senator Heidi Heitkamp



Representative Kevin Cramer



Representative Steve Daines

*Tammy Baldwin*

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Senator Tammy Baldwin