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12/20/07

TO: Honorable Collin Peterson, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture
Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Ranking Member, House Committee on
Agriculture
Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

FROM: Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Trade Association
National Organic Coalition
Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
Union of Concerned Scientists
Beyond Pesticides

RE: HR2419 Conference; Organic Agriculture Provisions

Dear Sirs,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our thanks to each of you for your attention to the provisions in HR 2419 (the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007) that address organic agriculture. The contributions and needs of organic producers, handlers and consumers have received a new level of respect and consideration in this process, and we greatly appreciate that.

We are now working as a group to review the details of both bills and their respective reports. Fortunately many of the provisions relating to organic are quite similar between the bills and will be easily reconciled. However, there are some variances where we hope to be helpful to you by submitting unified recommendations for the Conference Report. We will provide these joint recommendations as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will try to consolidate any queries we may have for your staffs.

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Of course, if you have any immediate questions or proposals that we can help with, please contact us. We hope that you and your staff all are getting some well-deserved rest, but some of us will be available during the holidays if you need us.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday break,

Signed:

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cc: Honorable Kent Conrad, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Budget
Honorable Patrick Leahy
Honorable Dennis Cardoza
Honorable Randy Neugebauer
Honorable Tim Holden
Honorable Frank Lucas

Attention: Mark Halverson
Martha Scott Poindexter
Rob Larew
William O'Conner
Brian Baenig
Jim Miller
Keith Jones
John Goldberg
Nona Darrell
Pelham Straughn
John Ferrell
Pam Smith
Kate Coler
Anne Cannon