



## MINNESOTA FARMERS UNION

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT DOUG PETERSON

Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Klobuchar:

Historically family farmers and ranchers have been America's best soil and water conservationists. When given the economic incentives and flexibility necessary to act, our nation's agricultural producers and rural communities can realize tremendous environmental and economic benefits.

The recently introduced Clean Water Restoration Act, S.787, seeks to clarify the original intent of the 1972 Clean Water Act. Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) understands that an amendment will be offered during the committee mark-up of the bill that address our previously outlined concerns. Adoption of such an amendment would make MFU comfortable and supportive of the legislation.

Any legislation impacting clean water must not result in additional burdens or regulation to Minnesota farmers who are already very well regulated under Minnesota state law. Minnesota farmers must comply with a myriad of water and wetland issues, including provisions in the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA). Amendments to clarify and strengthen that "normal farming practices" are exempt, including prior converted wetlands (PC), are critical to MFU's support for this legislation and would add consistency for our farmers.

In conclusion, MFU is supportive and comfortable with the legislation pending adoption of the amendment mentioned in this letter. We appreciate the efforts of yourself and your staff on this issue and looks forward to working with you as consideration of this legislation moves forward to ensure the exemptions for agriculture are clarified and maintained.

Sincerely,

Doug Peterson, President