



ACTION ALERT

BUDGET COMMITTEES TO APPROVE BUDGET RESOLUTION THIS WEEK AND NEXT

**OUTCOME WILL DETERMINE FATE OF THE 2007 FARM BILL
AND 2008 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRIORITIES HANG IN THE BALANCE!

Phone calls or faxed letters are needed **immediately**, directed at the Senate and House Budget Committee members, to urge them to increase the spending allowances available for the writing of the 2007 Farm Bill (covering 2008 through 2012) as well as the Agricultural Appropriations bill for 2008.ⁱ The list of Budget Committee members follows below. If no one from your state is on the budget committee, please call or fax a very brief letter to the Chairman of the House and Senate Committee.ⁱⁱ

The Senate Budget Committee will convene on Wednesday, March 14 to take up the Budget Resolution, and will start voting Thursday, March 15. The House Budget Committee intends to write its budget bill the following week.

The funding level set by Congress in the Budget Resolution will dictate how much money the Agriculture Committees can spend on the new five-year Farm Bill. The spending level set in the Budget Resolution for domestic discretionary social spending will largely determine how much money the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee will have when it writes the discretionary spending bill for next year. Our chances for winning major farm bill reform or increased funding levels for sustainable and organic programs will be determined in large part by action on the Budget Resolution.

PLEASE CALL OR FAX TODAY

The message is simple. I am a constituent and I am calling to ask Senator _____ (or Representative _____) to vote for a Budget Resolution that –

1. Increases mandatory spending levels for the 2007 Farm Bill by \$20 billion; and
2. Increases discretionary spending levels for the 2008 Agricultural Appropriations bill by at least \$1 billion.

I believe we need to invest in conservation, renewable energy, sustainable and organic farming, rural economic development, beginning farmers and ranchers, and local and regional food systems.

It's easy to call or write. Please call the Capitol switchboard (202-224-3121) and ask for your Senator's or Representative's office by name. Ask the Senator's or Representative's receptionist for the legislative aid who covers the budget resolution. If the budget aid is unavailable, leave a

message with your name, phone number and the message above on the aid's voice mail or with the receptionist.

If you prefer to write, fax a brief letter with the points above, along with you name and address and contact information, to the fax number listed in the attached list of Budget Committee members.

Background

The vote on the budget is, in effect, the first real vote on the new 2007 Farm Bill. Renewal of the Farm Bill this year creates a singular opportunity to reform our farm and food policies to better meet America's economic, energy, environment, hunger and health challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities. With adequate funding we can make substantial progress in fostering new farming opportunities, expanding new markets, leveling the playing field for sustainable and organic farmers, increasing food access and improving health, reducing hunger, promoting rural entrepreneurship and community development, rewarding farmers to help meet the nation's most pressing environmental challenges, investing in sustainable farm-based energy conservation and production systems, and ensuring fair access for socially disadvantaged farmers and farmworkers.

Spending on food, farm and rural development discretionary programs were frozen in 2007 at 2006 levels. Increases in some key sustainable and organic agriculture programs that were passed in either the House or Senate did not come to fruition as a result. Now Congress needs to allow funding to catch up with inflation and with major locked-in increases in some USDA programs that, absent a larger total pie, will result in smaller slices (i.e., budget cuts) for our priority programs, including sustainable and organic research, conservation incentive programs, value-added and rural business and energy grants, farmers markets and farm-to-cafeteria grants, and so on.

ⁱ Please note – if you have already received an action alert to call or write members of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee in support of sustainable and organic program priorities, please continue to respond to those alerts. Those are aimed at the appropriators, who will also be making key decisions this coming week. In contrast, this alert is aimed at the Budget Committees and the budget resolution, and is therefore a different, yet equally important action. We apologize if your Representative or Senator is doing dual duty on these two different actions and therefore you are receiving two different alerts. They are both important. Thanks for understanding!

ⁱⁱ The Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee is Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) and the Chairman of the House Budget Committee is John Spratt (D-SC). Their phone and fax numbers are listed on the attached list of Budget Committee members.

110th CONGRESS: SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE**Democrats**

Member	Phone	Fax
Kent Conrad (ND) - Chair	202-224-2043	202-224-7776
Patty Murray (WA)	202-224-2621	202-224-0238
Ron Wyden (OR)	202-224-5244	202-228-2717
Russ Feingold (WI)	202-224-5323	202-224-2725
Robert Byrd (WV)	202-224-3954	202-228-0002
Debbie Stabenow (MI)	202-224-4822	202-228-0325
Bill Nelson (FL)	202-224-5274	202-228-2183
Robert Menendez (NJ)	202-224-4744	202-228-2197
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)	202-224-3224	202-228-4054
Ben Cardin (MD)	202-224-4525	202-228-1651
Bernie Sanders (VT)	202-224-5141	202-228-0776
Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)	202-224-2921	202-228-6362

Republicans

Member	Phone	Fax
Judd Gregg (NH) - Ranking	202-224-3324	202-224-4952
Pete Domenici (NM)	202-224-6621	202-228-0900
Charles Grassley (IA)	202-224-3744	202-224-6020
Wayne Allard (CO)	202-224-5941	202-224-6471
Michael Enzi (WY)	202-224-3424	202-228-0359
Jeff Sessions (AL)	202-224-4124	202-224-3149
Jim Bunning (KY)	202-224-4343	202-228-1373
Mike Crapo (ID)	202-224-6142	202-228-1375
John Inhofe (OK)	202-224-6244	202-228-2193
John Cornyn (TX)	202-224-2934	202-228-2856
Lindsey Graham (SC)	202-224-5972	202-224-3808

110th CONGRESS: HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE**Democrats**

Representative	Phone	Fax
John, Spratt, Jr. (SC) - Chair	202-225-5501	202-225-0464
Rosa DeLauro (CT)	202-225-3661	202-225-4890
Chet Edwards (TX)	202-225-6105	202-225-0350
Jim Cooper (TN)	202-225-4311	202-226-1035
Thomas Allen (ME)	202-225-6116	202-225-5590
Allyson Schwartz (PA)	202-225-6111	202-226-0611
Marcy Kaptur (OH)	202-225-4146	202-225-7711
Xavier Becerra (CA)	202-225-6235	202-225-2202
Lloyd Doggett (TX)	202-225-4865	202-225-3073
Earl Blumenauer (OR)	202-225-4811	202-225-8941
Marion Berry (AR)	202-225-4076	202-225-5602
Allen Boyd (FL)	202-225-5235	202-225-5615
James McGovern (MA)	202-225-6101	202-226-5759
Betty Sutton (OH)	202-225-3401	202-225-2266
Robert Andrews (NJ)	202-225-6501	202-225-6583
Robert Scott (VA)	202-225-8351	202-225-8354
Bob Etheridge (NC)	202-225-4531	202-225-5662
Darlene Hooley (OR)	202-225-5711	202-225-5699
Brian Baird (WA)	202-225-3536	202-225-3478
Dennis Moore (KS)	202-225-2865	202-226-5807
Timothy Bishop (NY)	202-225-3826	202-226-3143
Gwen Moore (WI)	202-225-4572	202-225-3377

Republicans

Representative	Phone	Fax
Paul Ryan (WI) - Ranking	202-225-3031	202-225-3393
J. Gresham Barrett (SC)	202-225-5301	202-225-3216
Jo Bonner (AL)	202-225-4931	202-225-0562
Scott Garrett (NJ)	202-225-4465	202-225-9048
Thaddeus McCotter (MI)	202-225-8171	202-225-2667
Mario Diaz-Balart (FL)	202-225-2778	202-226-0346
Jeb Hensarling (TX)	202-225-3484	202-226-4888
Daniel Lungren (CA)	202-225-5716	202-226-1298
Michael Simpson (ID)	202-225-5531	202-226-8216
Patrick McHenry (NC)	202-225-2576	202-225-0316
Connie Mack (FL)	202-225-2536	202-226-0439
K. Michael Conaway (TX)	202-225-3605	202-225-1783
John Campbell (CA)	202-225-5311	202-225-9177
Patrick Tiberi (OH)	202-225-5355	202-226-4523
Jon Porter (NV)	202-225-3252	202-225-2185
Rodney Alexander (LA)	202-225-8490	202-225-5639
Adrian Smith (NE)	202-225-6435	202-225-0207