

News from the House Agriculture Committee Republicans
Frank D. Lucas, Ranking Member

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Lucas Asks Peterson for Additional Hearings on Cap & Trade Legislation

WASHINGTON - Ranking Member Frank Lucas along with 17 of his Republican colleagues sent a letter on Friday to Rep. Collin Peterson, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, asking him to hold additional hearings on H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation on June 26, 2009. The U.S. Senate is expected to consider the legislation after the August recess.

The text of the letter to Chairman Peterson is included below:

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson,

We are writing to request additional hearings on H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The Speaker's accelerated schedule did not give the Committee sufficient time to properly consider this complex proposal.

The agriculture community appreciates your work on H.R. 2454. However, even with the inclusion of your provisions, 120 agriculture groups still oppose the bill, as did 31 Members of this Committee when they voted against it on the House floor. More than 300 pages were included without review that will have a direct impact on agriculture. The Committee should be given the opportunity to hear

from our constituents and analyze the new language.

There are a number of different analyses on cap and trade that show reductions in farm income reaching all the way up to 94 percent by 2035. And, according to press reports, EPA is projecting that this legislation would take 56 million crop acres out of production due to afforestation. For these reasons, we must continue to gather information on the consequences of this legislation.

The Senate Agriculture committee has held one hearing on cap and trade and Chairman Harkin has agreed to hold additional hearings. New information about H.R. 2454 continues to become available. This legislation continues to warrant our consideration as it will have far reaching effects on the agriculture community for generations to come.

It is important to note that we are not finished voting on this legislation yet. We need more information if Members are asked to vote on the final passage of a conference report of this bill.

Sincerely,

Rep. Frank D. Lucas, Ranking Member
Rep. Bob Goodlatte
Rep. Jerry Moran
Rep. Timothy V. Johnson
Rep. Sam Graves
Rep. Mike Rogers
Rep. Steve King
Rep. Randy Neugebauer
Rep. K. Michael Conaway
Rep. Jeff Fortenberry
Rep. Jean Schmidt
Rep. Adrian Smith
Rep. Robert E. Latta
Rep. Phil Roe
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer
Rep. Glenn W. Thompson
Rep. Bill Cassidy
Rep. Cynthia Lummis

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