

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Cochran:

We are writing to urge the inclusion of several important provisions in the committee draft of the farm bill. Specifically, we are asking that Sec. 1207, "Special Marketing Loan Provisions for Upland Cotton," of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, which includes special import quotas and the Economic Adjustment Assistance to Users of Upland Cotton (EAAP), be extended in any new farm legislation.

These provisions were included in S. 3240 as reported by the Committee and approved by the Senate in 2012. However, these provisions were not included in S.10, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 that was introduced earlier this year. We want to ensure that these provisions are restored if S.10 is used as the basis for a Committee mark-up.

The EAAP has been documented as stimulating new investment in textile plant and manufacturing equipment, which has resulted in increased domestic cotton consumption and jobs. It is important that the EAAP be continued because most of the plans involve multi-year commitments. If funding is terminated, those projects will likely be abandoned before completion.

The special import quotas were first included in farm legislation in the late 1970's to ensure that manufacturers have consistent access to raw material in the event of short supplies in the United States. Domestic manufacturers have demonstrated their commitment to, and preference for, U.S. grown cotton; however, in the unlikely event of a severe crop failure, the quotas provide assurance that our manufacturers will have access to sufficient supplies of raw materials necessary to operate their plants.

Sec. 1207 enables our textile manufacturers to remain globally competitive while stimulating the domestic economy. Maintaining this provision is vital to the U.S. textile and

cotton producing sectors. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

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Kay R. Hazari

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Mark Rempur

Mary G. Garsim

Dil Vitter

John Boozman