

MIKE JOHANNIS
NEBRASKA

404 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4224
(202) 228-0436 FAX

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND
FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
328A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lincoln:

I applaud your decision to begin Senate Agriculture Committee hearings this month on the reauthorization of the farm bill. I look forward to helping craft this legislation, which is vitally important to farmers and ranchers in my home state and across America.

I am excited to participate in the first of the four hearings, scheduled for June 30 in Washington, DC. As you plan any remaining hearings, I ask that you consider scheduling one of them in Nebraska. As you know, Nebraska's farmers and ranchers produce a significant amount of the nation's major agricultural commodities, including corn, soybeans, wheat, beef, and pork, as well as other grains and livestock. Bringing this policy debate to the Heartland of America would provide important insight and informed discussion.

In particular, I believe Nebraskans would have much to contribute to Hearing 2: Revitalizing the Rural Economy through Robust Rural Development, and Hearing 4: Ensuring Agriculture is Part of Our Nation's Energy Future. Nebraska ranks second nationally in ethanol production, with 24 plants producing almost two billion gallons of ethanol each year. In addition to renewable energy, we also have many small, rural businesses that support the agriculture community and provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.

I hope you will seriously consider the important voice Nebraska has to lend to the process of developing a new farm bill. Additionally, Nebraska offers a central location, where producers from Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, and other states can easily travel to discuss this important legislation that will so closely affect their industries. I would be happy to provide any further information or assistance that might be helpful in this regard.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



Mike Johannis
United States Senator

LINCOLN OFFICE
294 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 CENTENNIAL MALL NORTH
LINCOLN, NE 68508
(402) 476-1400
FAX: (402) 476-0605

OMAHA OFFICE
9900 NICHOLAS STREET
SUITE 325
OMAHA, NE 68114
(402) 758-8981
FAX: (402) 758-9165

KEARNEY OFFICE
4111 FOURTH AVENUE
SUITE 26
KEARNEY, NE 68845
(308) 236-7602
FAX: (308) 236-7473

SCOTTSDLUFF OFFICE
115 RAILWAY STREET
SUITE C102
SCOTTSDLUFF, NE 69361
(308) 632-6032
FAX: (308) 632-6295