



For Immediate Release  
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## **Governor Richardson Joins Governor Culver in Urging Congress to Pass 2007 Farm Bill by Year's End**

(Santa Fe, NM) Today, Governor Richardson joined Iowa Governor Chet Culver in a letter to the US Congress urging members to pass the 2007 Farm Bill by the end of December. They were joined by Governors of major agriculture states including Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin.

“Agriculture is key to New Mexico’s economy and truly feeds our nation,” said Governor Richardson. “I’m proud to join Governor Culver in calling on Congress to deliver the product to market, and pass the Farm bill by the end of the year. Our farming and ranching communities need less debate and more action from Washington.”

The letter states “While debate on the Farm Bill continues, the end goals should be the same: federal farm legislation should provide a consistent, dependable safety net for our nation’s farmers; offer incentives for rural development and renewable energy; create strong incentives for conservation; and provide nutrition programs for the nation’s needy families.”

Under Governor Richardson’s administration, New Mexico has worked to reopen foreign markets to New Mexico’s beef, and made significant investments into its rural communities and state agriculture through the rural jobs tax credit, alternative energy tax credits, the national promotion of state agriculture, and an investment of over \$1 billion in rural roads, schools, and capital infrastructure.

The Governor has also led the effort with many of his fellow Governor's, to call on Congress to continue funding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides nutritional food to low-income mothers and children under 6 years old, as well as to the elderly poor.

*Letter follows*

December 10, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Leader of the Majority  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Leader of the Minority  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

John Boehner  
House Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
House Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senators Reid and McConnell;  
Speaker Pelosi and Congressmen Hoyer and Boehner:

As Governors of states with prominent agriculture economies, we have vital interest in the status and progress of legislation affecting farmers – particularly the 2007 Farm Bill currently under consideration by the Congress.

While debate on the Farm Bill continues, the end goals should be the same: federal farm legislation should provide a consistent, dependable safety net for our nation's farmers; offer incentives for rural development and renewable energy; create strong incentives for conservation; and provide nutrition programs for the nation's needy families.

We urge you to work with your colleagues to reach a compromise on this important Farm Bill. It is essential that the holders of diverse opinions strive to find common ground to get a blended package that all parties can accept.

We ask that Congress move forward before the end of the year, in a bipartisan fashion to pass the Farm Bill. This legislation is important to our agriculture producers, our rural businesses, our communities and our states. On behalf of our farmers and ranchers, we urge you to pass this significant farm policy as soon as possible.

Signed by Governors

cc: Chairman Collin Peterson  
Chairman Tom Harkin  
Ranking member Goodlatte  
Ranking member Chambliss