January 16, 2008 05:17 PM
312-795-3730

Representative Joe Knollenberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Subject: Support a fully funded REAP

Dear [Legislator],

As the Conference Committee works to complete the Farm Bill, please urge the committee to support at least $500 million in mandatory five-year funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) in the Farm Bill.

REAP boosts our rural economies, increases our national security by producing homegrown clean energy, and cuts global warming pollution that harms our environment. Since its inception in 2003, the nearly 2,100 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in 49 states have resulted in hundreds of megawatts of wind power, millions of gallons of biofuel production capacity, and significant energy savings.

REAP is the only clean energy program in the Farm Bill that directly benefits farmer and rural small business owners by expanding all clean energy development, from wind to solar power to advanced biofuels and energy efficiency programs. Therefore, please support:

++ Funding REAP at $500 million over five years in mandatory funding, ramping up from $50 million in 2008 to 150 million by 2012.
++ Remove the $332 million tax credit subsidy for coal-to-liquids and "alternative" fossil fuels and use that funding for REAP.
++ Fund energy technical assistance and on-going energy implementation in REAP (as proposed in the Senate).

Poll after poll shows Americans support clean, renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. REAP can meet these needs with at least $500 million in mandatory funding over five years. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,