



November 15, 2007

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

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

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Senator McConnell:

The Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development respectfully requests that Senate leaders quickly come to an agreement regarding amendments to the 2007 Farm Bill and allow the full Senate to debate and pass the bill in a fair and expeditious manner.

The 2007 Farm Bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress will undertake this year. It stands to provide rural America with valuable and essential resources for rural infrastructure improvements and broadband deployment, business, entrepreneurship and micro-enterprise development, and strategic regional collaboration and investment. These investments will not only help communities address immediate and widespread needs across the rural landscape, but more importantly, make these communities strong for future generations

As leaders, residents and stakeholders of small town and rural America, we are proud of our strong heritage of independence, innovation and self sufficiency. It is vital for the federal government to renew its commitment to the array of public, private, nonprofit, civic, education, philanthropic and other organizations who are working tirelessly to improve our nation's rural economies and communities. This is not only essential for the 89 million citizens who call small town and rural America "home," but for the nation as a whole.

The Farm Bill provides Congress with an opportunity to renew its commitment to rural America and we ask that full debate on the bill be allowed to go forward. Thank you for your attention and leadership on this critical matter.

Sincerely,