

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 2, 2013

Mr. William L. Vodehnal  
PO Box 342  
Bassett, NE 68714-0342

Dear Mr. Vodehnal:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act (H.R. 1947). I appreciate you taking the time to share your views on this matter.

As you may know, the House of Representatives recently considered H.R. 1947, commonly known as the 2013 Farm Bill. Included in the bill were provisions which would improve the federal crop insurance program, a key risk management tool for Nebraska's farmers and ranchers, and strengthen conservation programs which build upon efforts to preserve our vital natural resources.

Farming is an inherently risky venture, but agriculture remains a bright spot in our economy and we cannot afford to undermine this success. While H.R. 1947 contained provisions to increase efficiency within farm programs, a standalone amendment tying conservation compliance to crop insurance eligibility was proposed and made in order for consideration by the House. In the end, however, the amendment was not offered, and therefore did not receive an up-or-down vote.

While not a perfect bill, on June 20, 2013, I voted in favor of H.R. 1947, understanding it was one step in the process of agreeing with the Senate on the legislation. Despite major reforms, the measure failed by a vote of 195-234. As co-chair of both the Congressional Rural Caucus and the Modern Agriculture Caucus, I remain committed to getting a responsible, long-term Farm Bill which respects our natural resources and ensures opportunity for producers across Nebraska. Rest assured I will keep your thoughts in mind as the legislative process continues.

Again, thank you for contacting me; please do so in the future if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,



ADRIAN SMITH  
Member of Congress

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