



July 21, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of 200,000 family farmers, National Farmers Union (NFU) encourages support for the draft tax extenders package to be considered at the Senate Finance Committee's executive session on July 21, 2015.

NFU applauds the Finance Committee in advancing a two year extenders package well ahead of the end of the year. Producers and rural residents deserve certainty when it comes to the tax needs of their individual businesses. Over the last several years, Congress has approached the extension of valuable tax credits in a way that was unpredictable and unfriendly for family farmers and rural residents. The last minute extensions, some of which were retrospective in nature, left producers scrambling during the last few weeks of the year to make purchases. There was very little confidence that Congress would extend the credits until it actually passed. As a result, long-term planning was impossible.

The approach taken by the Finance Committee comes as a relief to our members that rely on these tools. Of particular importance to our organization are extenders that directly benefit producers and the rural economies that are built on the work that they carry out. NFU supports the following tax credits:

- Charitable contributions of real property for the purpose of conservation.
- Extension of bonus depreciation.
- Charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.
- Extension of increased expensing limitations and treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.
- Extension of the Renewable Electricity Production Credit.
- All extensions that benefit the renewable fuel sector at both the production and consumption levels.
- Deductions for energy efficiency upgrades made to buildings.

We recognize the difficulty that you face as you work to ensure that these valuable businesses tools remain in place. Cost, politics, and a challenging economic environment only compound the challenge. NFU urges committee members to retain these extensions of credits in any final package. We thank you for your attention in this matter and for the support you provide to producers and residents of rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Johnson".

Roger Johnson  
President

Cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee