

June 18, 2009

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson, Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Lucas:

Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) is opposed the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" (H.R. 2454). We are extremely concerned about the predicted increases in energy and other business costs that may result from the bill, a weak offsets section and the fact that producers have not had adequate time to fully analyze the very real and significant effects the voluminous bill would have on their businesses.

TCFA members are responsible environmental stewards who respect and care for the land, air, water and animals that are fundamental to sustaining their way of life. Our members are very concerned, however, about the effects this bill could have on the costs of fuel, electricity, feed, fertilizer, equipment and other inputs necessary to maintain a cattle operation. Economists have estimated that H.R. 2454 would cause farm income to drop anywhere from \$8 billion in the short term to \$50 billion long term. Cattle producers have suffered significant economic setbacks lately, and if these estimates are close to being accurate, this bill would very likely put many operations out of business. TCFA simply cannot support a bill that would cause this kind of economic devastation.

In addition, agricultural producers were told all along that we would be able to generate income by producing offsets to sell to regulated sectors of the economy. H.R. 2454 does not deliver on these promises.

Finally, there has not been adequate time to study the bill and understand all the effects it could have on cattle producers and the U.S. economy. When Congress considers a bill of this magnitude and economic importance, careful analysis and deliberation is essential. We urge Congress to slow the process, carefully analyze the bill and make certain everyone understands its significance. Without sufficient forethought and careful consideration, further action on this legislation could be economically devastating.

Cattle producers will continue to work every day to protect and improve the environment so that they and future generations will be able to continue to live off the land and feed our nation, but TCFA must oppose any bill that could cause financial ruin to our members.

Sincerely,



Ross Wilson  
President & CEO



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