

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2011

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20050

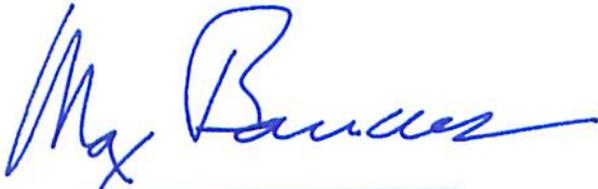
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We would like to thank you for your continuing support of the Montana communities that have been affected by recent flooding. The Emergency Conservation Program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is one of the programs available to Montana farmers and ranchers to assist them in rehabilitating farmland damaged by the flood waters.

The recently passed 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Act contained \$122.7 million in funding for the Emergency Conservation Program. It is my understanding that eight Montana counties are still waiting to receive funding for approved Emergency Conservation Program projects totaling around \$787,000. We urge USDA to quickly provide funding to the eight remaining Montana counties, and provide whatever additional funding is necessary to meet all of the Emergency Conservation Program project requests of Montana's farmers and ranchers.

The Montana FSA has done an outstanding job in evaluating whether communities impacted by the flooding are eligible to receive Emergency Conservation Program funds. Without financial assistance from the Emergency Conservation Program many farmers and ranchers will be unable to fully restore their farm and ranchland. USDA efforts to assist Montana's farmers and ranchers to combat the damage left behind by the flooding are greatly appreciated and we appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



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Max Baucus  
U.S. Senator



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Jon Tester  
U.S. Senator