

April 6, 2011

Members of the House Leadership
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Congressman Rooney Amendment to the Continuing Resolution—
EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria Rule**

Dear Representatives:

We ask for your strong support for eliminating the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) funding in the fiscal year 2011 Continuing Resolution that would be used to implement EPA's numeric nutrient criteria for Florida.

EPA is seeking to establish criteria in Florida that are of highly questionable scientific merit and estimated to cost agriculture, businesses and rate payers billions of dollars. Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services concluded that Florida's agricultural community will lose 14,545 full-time and part-time jobs and will lose \$1.148 billion annually. Farmers and ranchers across the country are justifiably concerned with EPA's effort in Florida in light of EPA's ongoing effort to get states to adopt numeric nutrient criteria using the same or similar methods. It is apparent that EPA's development of numeric nutrient criteria in Florida establishes a template for how EPA will structure and impose similar nutrient requirements nationwide.

Saving federal taxpayer dollars by ending EPA's effort in Florida would open the door for more constructive and useful discussions about how we achieve cost-effective and scientifically sound water quality protections involving nutrients.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
CF Industries
CropLife America
Delaware Maryland Agribusiness
Association
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida Sugar Cane League
GROWMARK, Inc.
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
J.R. Simplot Co.
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Agri-business Association
PotashCorp
Southern Crop Production Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Texas Ag Industries Association
United Egg Producers
Virginia Grain Producers Association
Virginia Poultry Federation
Western Plant Health Association
Wisconsin Crop Production Association
Wyoming Ag-Business Association

Cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives