

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

July 13, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

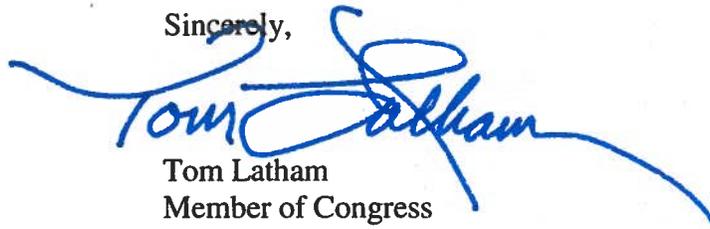
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As you are aware, Iowa, along with much of the Midwest, is currently facing one of its worst droughts in years. As such, pasture ground for livestock and haying acres are under enormous stress, if not completely dried up. As conditions worsen, my constituents are growing concerned over the lack of resources available to feed their livestock as a result of the current drought conditions.

If the predictions are true, this could become the worst drought in 20 years. With little relief in sight, I request you exercise your discretionary authority to open Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands for haying and grazing. Opening the CRP land will help provide immediate emergency relief for livestock producers to get them through the remaining summer months.

I appreciate your timely attention to this matter. I would appreciate you notifying my office as soon as a declaration regarding this request is made.

Sincerely,



Tom Latham
Member of Congress