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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1601

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

July 19, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing in regards to the significant pressure being felt by farmers and ranchers as a result of the ongoing drought experienced in Kansas this year. As you are well aware, many parts of America are in the midst of the largest drought in nearly 50 years. Over half the country is experiencing D1 drought conditions or worse, and more than one-third of the country is experiencing severe drought or worse. According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, 67 of the 69 counties in the First District of Kansas, and 91 of 105 counties in the state, are experiencing severe or extreme drought conditions.

This is placing a significant strain on farms and ranches across the nation, forcing producers to turn to already-limited grazing areas sooner than planned. For this reason, I respectfully request that you lift the haying restriction on CP-25 (Rare and Declining Habitat). Without access to the hay available on these lands, many of the Kansas' livestock producers will face the serious possibility of losing their herds.

I appreciate your serious consideration of this matter, and look forward to working with you to alleviate the pressure that our nation's farmers and ranchers are experiencing as a result of this drought.

Sincerely,



Tim Huelskamp

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