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June 22 and 23, 2011

Dear Senator/Representative:

Issues of interest and concern to THE UNITED STATES SWEET POTATO COUNCIL are:

1. **MANDATORY E-VERIFY:** Our growers will be hurt if the application of E-Verify is made mandatory. Additionally, we do not believe Congress should approve any action that threatens to place \$5 to \$9 billion of ag production at risk, the loss of which would make our rural economies even more fragile. At the same time, should E-Verify become mandatory, then it will be imperative for Congress to address our labor force needs.
2. **H-2A PROGRAM:** Our growers welcome the right kind of reform of the H-2A program. Recent H-2A changes have made it more difficult to use. Our growers both want and need a legal supply of labor, but they desire a program: (1) that's easier to use; (2) that contains less regulation and bureaucracy; and (3) that's more cost effective. AGJOBS is out there, but it reforms H-2A in a way that does not accomplish these three desires. Our growers support S. 3912 because we believe it offers the best improvement to the H-2A program. [**Note:** S. 3912 was introduced by Senator Saxby Chambliss in 2010, but has not yet been introduced in 2011.]
3. **REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT of 2011 (H.R. 872):** Our growers encourage your support for this Act to reduce the regulatory burdens imposed by the case, National Cotton Council vs. EPA (6<sup>th</sup> Circuit 2009). It would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) to clarify that CWA permits are not needed when a pesticide is applied in accordance with a FIFRA approved label. It would override the Court's ruling that requires National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. As a result, pesticides applied to, or near, water in accordance with the FIFRA label, would not be considered a pollutant, and would, therefore, not require a NPDES permit under the CWA
4. **FARM DUST REGULATION PREVENTION ACT of 2011 (H.R. 1633):** Our growers ask for your support of H.R. 1633. It temporarily prevents EPA from changing the national ambient air quality standard for coarse particulate matter for 1 year. Already, 32 Senators and 100 Representatives have sent letters this year to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, in which they expressed their concerns about the adverse effects changing the dust standard on rural America would have, and in both letters, they asked that the current standard not be change.
5. **ENERGY TAX PREVENTION ACT of 2011 (H.R. 910 and S. 482):** Our growers encourage your support and co-sponsorship of this Act. It pre-empts the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases from stationery sources, including farms and ranches, based on chemical change considerations. EPA has estimated that when Greenhouse Gas Emissions regulations are fully implemented, over 37,000 farms and ranches would be required to obtain permits at an average cost of \$23,000 per permit, for a total cost to farmers and ranchers of more than \$851 million.

Thank you for your support, for allowing us to meet with you, and for hearing our concerns.

*Charles Walker*  
*Executive Secretary*

♦ THE SWEET POTATO IS A POWERHOUSE OF NUTRITION ♦

♦ SWEET POTATOES offer FIBER, POTASSIUM and VITAMIN B-6 and THEY'RE BURSTING with BETA CAROTENE ♦

♦ SWEET POTATOES are CHOLESTEROL-FREE, FAT-FREE and EXCELLENT SOURCES of VITAMINS A & C ♦