

For Immediate Release ~ June 8, 2010

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A coalition of agricultural groups is calling on Senator Tim Johnson to join Senator John Thune in supporting a resolution to curtail the overreaching regulatory grasp of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Senate is expected to vote Thursday, June 10, on a resolution which would stop the EPA's regulation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Clean Air Act. S.J. Res. 26 has bi-partisan support, with 41 cosponsors, including Senator Thune. Fifty-one votes are needed to pass the resolution.

In a letter to Senator Johnson signed by ten agricultural organizations, the groups point out that EPA's proposed regulation of greenhouse gases carries "severe consequences for the U.S. economy, including America's farmers and ranchers, through increased input costs and international market disparities."

"The EPA rule itself claims to establish only a weak, indirect link between greenhouse gases and public health and welfare, going so far as to admit there are uncertainties over the net, direct health impacts of the greenhouse gases EPA is attempting to regulate," the letter states. In addition, the groups point out to Senator Johnson that EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson acknowledges that unilateral actions by the United States would have no material impact on global warming,

EPA issued its GHG tailoring regulations on May 13. The agency would require permits for GHG emissions above 75,000 tons per year in the short term and, eventually, for emissions above 50,000 tons per year. These regulations were issued as part of a series of regulations in response to a Supreme Court ruling that GHGs could be covered by the Clean Air Act.

If left unfettered, the proposed EPA regulations would require more than 37,000 farms to obtain operating permits under the Clean Air Act, at an estimated average cost of more than, \$23,200 apiece. That adds up to more than \$866 million in additional costs on America's farmers and ranchers, just to obtain the permits.

The groups point out that regulations of such magnitude, which will affect virtually the entire economy, should be decided by Congress, not a regulatory agency.

The ten organizations signing the letter:

- SD Agri-Business Association
- SD Association of Conservation Districts
- SD Association of Cooperatives
- SD Cattlemen's Association
- SD Corn Growers Association
- SD Farm Bureau
- SD Grain & Feed Association
- SD Pork Producers Council
- SD Soybean Association
- SD Wheat, Inc.