

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator
1200 Washington Ave. South
Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415

The Honorable Al Franken
U.S. Senator
60 East Plato Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Dear U.S. Sens. Klobuchar and Franken:

We are writing to express our collective opposition to the cap-and-trade energy bills being debated in the U.S. House and Senate. We share the common belief that this legislation will have a devastating impact on our families, businesses and especially agriculture.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's analysis of a similar proposal, cap-and-trade will cause energy prices to increase by about 40 percent. A U.S. Department of Treasury study revealed in September that the estimated cost per household could be as much as \$1,761 per year. Placing this kind of financial burden on the American family will not help our state return to a period of sustained economic growth as the prices for energy, gasoline, diesel and home heating oil rise.

Passing cap-and trade will also hurt the ability for small businesses to grow jobs and reduce the national GDP. According to a National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) survey of its members, a small manufacturer that currently has \$1.5 million in electricity, natural gas and diesel costs will see those costs rise to more than \$2 million annually. When asked how they would absorb the increase in costs, businesses said because they are already operating with minimum staff, most would be forced to raise prices.

Our agriculture industry would be especially hard hit if the U.S. Senate adopts cap-and-trade legislation similar to that passed by the U.S. House. According to a report released by Missouri Sen. Kit Bond and Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson on October 21, America's farmers and ranchers would be hit with \$550 million in higher fuel costs by 2020 and \$1.65 billion in 2050 as a direct result of climate change legislation. Minnesota's rural economy—*particularly the dairy industry*—cannot sustain this kind of hit. The USDA already rates dairy as one of the most

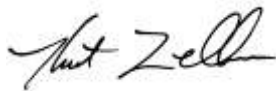
highly-leveraged agriculture industries. Forcing the burden of massive energy increases on their operations would be crippling.

The U.S. Senate needs to seriously review the intentional and unintentional consequences of passing a trade program similar to the one the U.S. House passed. Proponents claim this bill won't pinch wallets but they are ignoring the hard facts that this program could cost our country 2 million jobs by 2030 and reduce the national GDP by roughly \$350 billion below the baseline level. The reality is that Minnesotans will be forced to tighten their wallets.

Our country is suffering from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. It is financially irresponsible to consider legislation that would impose the largest tax hike in American history when so many people and businesses are already struggling to make ends meet. Our country simply cannot afford to take this gamble.

We hope you take our concerns into consideration as you represent all of Minnesota in the U.S. Senate. We strongly urge you to oppose cap-and-trade legislation.

Regards,



Rep. Kurt Zellers
House District 32B



Rep. Michael Beard
House District 35A



Rep. Randy Demmer
House District 29A



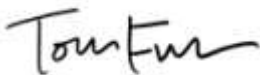
Rep. Bob Dettmer
House District 52A



Rep. Steve Drazkowski
House District 28B



Rep. Rob Eastlund
House District 17A



Rep. Tom Emmer
House District 19B



Rep. Pat Garofalo
House District 36B



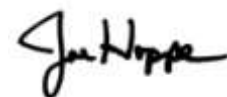
Rep. Steve Gottwalt
House District 15A



Rep. Bob Gunther
House District 24A



Rep. Rod Hamilton
House District 22B



Rep. Joe Hoppe
House District 34B



Rep. Tim Kelly
House District 28A



Rep. Tim Sanders
House District 51A



Rep. Ron Shimanski
House District 18A



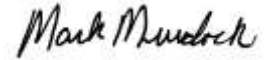
Rep. Tara Mack
House District 37A



Rep. Peggy Scott
House District 49A



Rep. Steve Smith
House District 33A



Rep. Mark Murdock
House District 10B



Rep. Marty Seifert
House District 21A



Rep. Dean Urdahl
House District 18B