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4/19/09

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April 17, 2009

Mr. Gregory Johnson RE: Docket number NRCS IFR 08005

Dear Mr. Johnson:

No one can deny that CAFOs are creating egregious environmental problems. Yet, the federal government is shelling out taxpayer money to subsidize the overproduction from CAFOs operated by agricultural conglomerates. Our Representatives and Senators in Washington still dance to the tune of the lobbyists representing industrial livestock operations.

The Department of Agriculture must put a stop to rewarding companies contributing to the bending of environmental laws to reward polluters.

- "EQUIP" should not subsidize the construction or expansion of industrial livestock operations.
- The amount of EQUIP funding available to an individual operator should be capped at \$150,000 to maximize the efficiency of the program and to insure that the funds reach a greater number of independent farmers.
- No EQUIP limitation waivers should be issued for projects of special environmental significance, such as the methane digesters in the farm bill.
- The Department of Agriculture should adjust the Cost-Share rates to encourage greater participation the use of EQUIP by independent farmers who will work to operate clean farms in a sustainable fashion.
- The Department must be made to understand that transparency in its financial operations is not optional. It is mandatory, and the USDA should track EQUIP funding of livestock operations by size category and amount of manure generated by each operation
- Priority must be given to supporting the development of sustainable, eco-friendly livestock production systems.

The USDA must understand that taxpayers are determined to prevent "business as usual" by the USDA. We demand good-faith use of our taxpayer dollars. You must not continue to pervert the EQUIP program to fund industrial-scale livestock operations. The EQUIP program was designed to address conservation and environmental issues, but by hook or crook, funds are pouring into the black hole of manure transfer and other CAFO subsidies. Shocking!

Thank You  
*Jim Wilson*

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# COVER SHEET

FAX FROM JIM WILSON

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Date: April 17, 2009

To: Mr. Gregory Johnson

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