



September 30, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

I am writing in support of an amendment offered by Senator Brownback to the FY10 Agriculture Appropriations bill that would eliminate discriminatory eligibility requirements for private sector participation in the USDA's advanced biofuels production program. The Organization for International Investment (OFII) respectfully requests your support for this amendment during today's Conference Committee.

OFII represents over 150 U.S. subsidiaries of companies headquartered abroad, or *Insourcing* companies. **Over 5 million Americans nationwide work directly for Insourcing businesses, which pay \$364 billion in annual U.S. payroll. Insourcing companies account for almost 14 percent of total U.S. R&D spending, manufacture 19 percent of U.S. exports and pay 14 percent of corporate taxes.** A copy of our membership list is attached as Annex A.


We understand the USDA's Rural Development program is implementing the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels (Title IX, Section 9005 of the Farm Bill) and has indicated that they will impose requirements of American ownership on any entity receiving benefits under this program, although there is no requirement in the law to do so.

Restricting the ability of *Insourcing* companies to fully participate in this program runs counter to U.S. goals of promoting economic recovery and American job creation and undermines the effectiveness of the program. It also calls into question U.S. commitment to a nondiscriminatory environment for foreign investment, and invites similar protectionist retribution from other countries. **The important goals laid out by President Obama in his May 5th Presidential Directive to Secretary Vilsack – to increase America's energy independence and spur rural economic development while encouraging production of the next-generation of biofuels – are unlikely to be achieved without allowing *Insourcing* companies to fully participate.**

OFII advocates for the fair, non-discriminatory treatment of U.S. subsidiaries in federal and state law with the goal of encouraging international companies to conduct more business and employ more Americans within our borders. Ensuring a level-playing field in USDA programs is central to that goal.

Again, OFII respectfully urges your support for the amendment to restore equal access to this program for all U.S. companies and their American workers, regardless of where a company's headquarters may be located. I would be glad to discuss our concerns at any time and can be reached at 202-659-1903.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy McLernon', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nancy McLernon
President & CEO

cc: Senator Kohl
Senator Brownback

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