DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Agriculture has 55 Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) that were established under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. As of September 30, 2006, this legislation was not reauthorized and the committees were terminated. The Department of Agriculture would like to continue these committees until the end of their current charters by amending the establishment authority from statutory to agency authority.

The RACs are as follows: RACs for the Southern Region, Resource Advisory Committees for the Southwestern Region, RACs for the Pacific Southwest Region, RACs for the Rocky Mountain Region, RACs for the Alaska Region, R RACs for the State of Idaho, RACs for the State of Montana, and the RACs for the States of Oregon and Washington.

The Department would also like to give the committees the following additional duties:

a) The RACs may monitor and track the development of projects that have been authorized under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. RACs will advise the Designated Federal Official on the progress of such monitoring efforts.

b) The RACs may make recommendations to the Secretary regarding changes or adjustments that may be necessary to the projects the RACs are monitoring.

Please find enclosed copies of the charters for the RACs.

Sincerely,

Boyd K. Rutherford
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

The Department of Agriculture has 55 Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) that were established under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. As of September 30, 2006, this legislation was not reauthorized and the committees were terminated. The Department of Agriculture would like to continue these committees until the end of their current charters by amending the establishment authority from statutory to agency authority.

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Sincerely,

Boyd K. Rutherford
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Agriculture has 55 Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) that were established under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. As of September 30, 2006, this legislation was not reauthorized and the committees were terminated. The Department of Agriculture would like to continue these committees until the end of their current charters by amending the establishment authority from statutory to agency authority.

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Sincerely,

Boyd K. Rutherford
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Goodlatte:

The Department of Agriculture has 55 Resource Advisory Committees (RACS) that were established under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. As of September 30, 2006, this legislation was not reauthorized and the committees were terminated. The Department of Agriculture would like to continue these committees until the end of their current charters by amending the establishment authority from statutory to agency authority.

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