

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

WOW *Farmers*
Disaster

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CORRESPONDENCE #: 4093393

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: W. Wondwossen, 97

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

The Honorable Kenneth Kroeplin
Representative of the State of North
Dakota
Box 39
Route One
Hope, North Dakota 58046-9745

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

language provided by USDA 9/14;

Dear Kenneth:

Thank you for your heartfelt letter expressing your concern about the serious challenges facing American farmers and especially our wheat producers.

I share your desire for securing a stable and prosperous future for our nation's agricultural industry. My Administration has already taken several steps to improve the competitiveness of U.S. commodities in world markets; bolster farm prices, improve cash flow and marketing flexibility for producers, and strengthen the safety net for America's family farmers. More specifically, we have made changes to the crop insurance program to help farmers deal with repeated crop losses. We have also worked to provide livestock disaster assistance to certain weather-troubled producers, to increase export credit guarantees, and to purchase surplus commodities.

Still, our government's ultimate goal must be to give American farmers the effective tools to manage risk and secure their own long-term economic viability. As part of our efforts, we must help farmers obtain the market data they need to make informed business choices. We must

also seek out new and innovative measures to help farmers manage their natural risks from weather, disease, and insects. With that, we must continue carrying out the recommendations of our National Commission on Small Farms and provide sound programs to help small and beginning farmers compete and thrive.

You can be assured that my Administration will continue to look for and support measures to help our nation's farmers and farm communities. Your hard-earned insights on these issues are vital to our success, and I look forward to your active involvement. Best regards.

Sincerely,

BC