

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to urge you to approve the State of Tennessee's recent request for an agricultural disaster declaration for 13 counties across Tennessee to help farmers who have suffered crop losses and damage to farm equipment and structures as a result of the historic rainfall and devastating floods that began April 30.

Governor Bredesen is requesting the declaration so that qualifying farmers would be able to apply for a variety of federal farm disaster programs – including supplemental farm revenue payments, livestock assistance and low-interest emergency loans – through their local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency office.

Thank you for your consideration of Tennessee's request for assistance. Please feel free to contact our offices should any additional information be needed.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



Bob Corker
United States Senator



John Tanner
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress