



Nebraska Wheat Board

January 10, 2008

The Honorable Chuck Conner
US Agriculture Secretary
Dept. of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Conner,

On behalf of the Nebraska Wheat Board, I am writing to bring your attention to an important matter abroad that is bringing devastating consequences to our U.S. agriculture producers. There is serious concern over Argentina's \$100 billion debt default which is costing Americans over \$10 billion dollars and bringing devastation to America's agricultural economy. Argentina's debt default is adversely affecting the U.S. wheat farmers by creating an unfair playing field between U.S. and international agricultural markets.

The World Trade Organization negotiations are necessary to expand wheat exports. These negotiations have been stalled due to the a few stubborn nations and their reluctance to make any subsidy reforms or open their markets. Developing countries like Brazil, India, and Argentina are hiding behind the title of a "developing country" to avoid making progress on any reforms or concessions.

These countries are heavily subsidized though a system of indirect subsidies such as India's \$52 billion dollars in low interest loans and Argentina's load default and currency devaluation. While these "developing" nations are receiving subsidies they are also attacking U.S. farm policies.

As the Doha round continues, we must fight for market access and find new as to address these countries' subsidies that are distorting world markets.

Great opportunities exist with the arrival of Argentina's new administration. We must push Argentina for debt repayment and gain assurance that currency manipulation and artificial inflation controls have ceased and will not return.

Please do your part in helping assure that these fraudulent subsidies do not continue. The U.S. must stop these unfair practices in order for our domestic farmers to compete on a global scale. Thank you for you time and consideration on such an important issue.

Sincerely,

Royce Schaneman
Executive Director
Nebraska Wheat Board

CC: The Honorable Henry Paulson, US Treasury Secretary

301 Centennial Mall South- 4th Floor • P.O. Box 94912 • Lincoln, NE 68509
Ph. 402/471-2358 • FAX 402/471-3446 • E-mail: nwb@wheat.ne.gov
www.nebraskawheat.com