



**INSTITUTE FOR  
AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY**  
PRESS RELEASE

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**Press Contact**

Julia Olmstead  
Senior Program Associate  
+1 (612) 870-3431  
jolmstead@iatp.org

**About IATP**

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy works locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems. IATP is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota with an office in Washington D.C.

# Critical homegrown energy programs at risk in 2012 Farm Bill

## Broad coalition presses congress to renew and fund core energy title programs

**MINNEAPOLIS** – A diverse coalition of 123 national and Minnesota organizations sent letters to U.S. House of Representatives and Senate leadership urging them to preserve and fund Farm Bill energy programs that are critical for national security, the environment, and rural economies. These programs help advance renewable biomass crops, increase energy efficiency, support wind and solar power, and encourage the expansion of biobased products.

“With energy costs going up, now is the time to invest in our farms, forests and rural communities to help them reduce energy waste and produce more renewable energy” said IATP Rural Communities Program Director, Jim Kleinschmit. “These core programs are critical to help rural America thrive and increase our homegrown energy capacity. Without support from Congress these programs could be eliminated in the next farm bill.”

The letters, signed by groups representing a broad range of farm, environment, ranch, energy, and commodity interests, emphasized the importance of programs like the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP), and Biobased Markets Program (Biopreferred) in creating rural jobs and increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency.

“We know the American people support clean energy and job creation,” said Kleinschmit. “Now, we’re asking Congress to show their commitment to these same ideals by preserving and funding these programs.”

Sen.d Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn, Al Franken, D-Minn, and Kent Conrad, D-N.D., recently introduced an energy title bill that would provide more than \$1.2 billion in funding over the next five years for these programs.

Download the PDFs of the Minnesota and National letters at [iatp.org](http://iatp.org).

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