
Strengthening Rural America Strengthens All of America! Congress Must ACT NOW for RURAL AMERICA!

There are practical strategies that work to revitalize 21st century rural communities. But local initiative must be matched by federal policies that support rural revitalization rather than hinder it. The 2007 farm bill provides an opportunity to change course.

We do not have to choose between family farms and rural communities. The single most effective thing Congress can do to strengthen rural America is to cap farm payments and stop providing subsidies that mega farms use to drive smaller operations out of business.

Capping payments to mega farms will save money that can be invested in initiatives that create a future for Rural America, including:

>> **Rural Entrepreneurship** – Traditional economic development based on industrial and business recruitment simply does not work for rural communities. Investment in entrepreneurial development based on small businesses and microenterprises does work, and helps bring people back to rural areas by creating economic opportunity.

>> **Rural Asset Building** – These strategies help individuals and families build an asset base that lifts the veil of poverty and dependence on low-wage work, making rural communities stronger and more viable as opportunities are expanded and ownership extended to more rural people.

>> **Family Farm and Ranch Innovation** – Assist farmers and ranchers in pursuing new, high-value, consumer driven markets for their products, thereby creating enhanced economic opportunities in rural communities. Invest resources in innovative cooperatives and other ventures that increase the profitability and viability of family farms and ranches.

>> **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers** – The future of agriculture depends on the next generation of family farmers and ranchers. And the viability of many rural businesses, schools and other community institutions also depends on new farmers and ranchers getting started. Invest in training, mentoring, linking, education and planning – invest in the future of family farming and ranching.

>> **Conservation** – Investing in programs such as the Conservation Security Program, which preserves land and water by rewarding farmers and ranchers for good stewardship on working lands rather than by what and how much they produce, is also good for family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Take Action Today!

Endorse the Petition and ask your friends and neighbors to sign as well. The Center for Rural Affairs will present the petition to your senators and representatives in Congress.

Center for Rural Affairs National Rural Action Network Petition Drive



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Address 2	City	State	Zip	Phone
I prefer my Newsletter/ Rural Action Brief	<input type="radio"/> Email	<input type="radio"/> U.S. Postal Mail	<input type="radio"/> Already receive Newsletter	<input type="radio"/> Already receive Rural Action Brief
First Name	Last Name		Address 1	
Address 2	City	State	Zip	Phone
I prefer my Newsletter/ Rural Action Brief	<input type="radio"/> Email	<input type="radio"/> U.S. Postal Mail	<input type="radio"/> Already receive Newsletter	<input type="radio"/> Already receive Rural Action Brief
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