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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
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HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to express my support for a fellow North Dakotan, Mr. Michael Clemens, to serve as a Farmer Industry board member on the Federal Crop Insurance Board of Directors. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

As you know, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) helps facilitate a stable agriculture economy by promoting the necessary research and expertise to devise and implement crop insurance. Under your general supervision, the FCIC is managed by a Board of Directors, which is tasked with approving new policies and plans, as well as any modifications to plans already in existence. Having an experienced and knowledgeable Board of Directors is integral to ensuring the FCIC is able to fulfill its mission and ensure a strong safety net for America's farmers.

It is my belief that Mr. Clemens is a well-qualified candidate for the position of Farmer Industry board member on the FCIC Board of Directors. As someone who started farming in 1975, and who has carried crop insurance for the entirety of his farming career, Mr. Clemens has first-hand knowledge of the importance of crop insurance to farmers across the United States. Mr. Clemens and his wife have worked their family farm outside Wimbledon, North Dakota for 37 years, and currently farm with their eldest daughter, her husband, and their one son. The family produces corn, barley, soybeans, and spring wheat, and they have also grown sunflowers, edible beans, winter wheat, canola, crambe, and carrots in the past.

Mr. Clemens has served as a board member of numerous local and national commodity groups and has participated in the development and support of various crop insurance policies, including through his work with the sunflower and corn grower organizations. It is my belief that he would bring a unique perspective to the FCIC Board of Directors, and would be especially knowledgeable on issues related to new product development, modifications to existing plans and procedures within policies.

I am confident that Mr. Clemens will represent our nation's agricultural producers well. Please contact Brita Endrud on my staff if I can provide any additional information regarding Mr. Clemens' qualifications. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator