Dear:

I can certainly understand your concern over the farm programs now in operation. For the most part they are merely modifications of programs adopted in the New Deal days during the depression of the thirties. The problems they were designed to meet were different from those of today and the programs are simply not meeting the needs of our modern day agriculture. The present laws will expire in about eighteen months.

The new Secretary of Agriculture is thoroughly familiar with the farm problems in the country today. He is now developing a farm program that he will submit to the Congress soon.

I have already introduced new farm legislation and it is cosponsored by nineteen other Senators. The purpose of this legislation is to get the government out of farming. Over a five year period it would phase out all controls, quotas, acreage allotments and supports. It has crop loan provisions and, also, farm retirement programs.

I am confident that the Congress can develop a new farm program, one that will substantially improve the farm economy.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen