

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

August 7, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

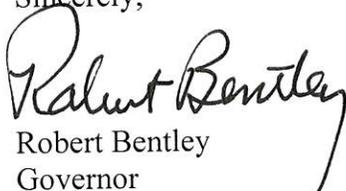
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to request your urgent assistance on behalf of Alabama agricultural producers. Due to extraordinary rainfall and flooding over the past 60 days, a large number of agricultural producers across our state have suffered actual and direct losses of crops. The wet conditions have affected many specialty crops and products—especially cotton, soybeans, and peanuts—and have caused Alabama agricultural producers great hardship.

It is my understanding that your agency has already issued a disaster declaration for many counties in Mississippi, and I assure you that the situation here in Alabama is comparable. I respectfully ask your assistance in declaring all of Alabama's counties, or the counties that you deem appropriate, as disaster areas. In doing so, I request that you direct Mr. Daniel Robinson at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency to proceed as quickly as possible with a formal damage assessment in all Alabama counties. This assessment will reveal the extent of the agricultural losses to date and provide a sense of future losses. I am confident that this assessment will show that a disaster declaration is warranted at the present time.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Robert Bentley
Governor

c: John McMillan – Commissioner, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
Daniel Robinson – State Director, USDA-Alabama Farm Service Agency