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September 28, 2004

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Honorable Tammy Baldwin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Nick Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

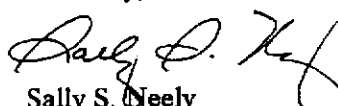
Dear Rep. Baldwin and Rep. Smith:

On behalf of the National Bankruptcy Conference ("NBC"), I write to confirm our support for the bill you are introducing on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, to extend Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code retroactively from January 1, 2004 through June 2005.

Since its original enactment, Chapter 12 has been extended nine ten times – because it is uniformly considered an essential support for our nation's family farmers. That is why the NBC continues to support the permanent enactment of Chapter 12. Notwithstanding this, the NBC supports another temporary retroactive extension so that this vital mechanism for resolving financial problems remains available to family farmers, as you and we continue to press for permanent status.

As you know, the NBC is a voluntary, non-profit, self-supporting, non-partisan group of fifty-eight judges, practicing lawyers and law professors that has been working with Congress on bankruptcy legislation since the Great Depression. Our conferees are all recognized experts in bankruptcy law and procedure who are committed to the improvement and integrity of the bankruptcy system. The NBC regularly consults with members of Congress and their staffs on policy issues and assists in drafting legislation; we also provide comprehensive written analyses and testimony regarding bankruptcy-related matters.

Sincerely,



Sally S. Neely
Chair, Committee on Legislation
National Bankruptcy Conference