

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

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Public Comments Before The Climate Change Advisory Committee

December 5, 2008

Good afternoon. I am Gary Swan, Director of the Governmental Affairs & Communications Division of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a statewide general farm organization with more than 44,000 members. We are the state affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has a membership of more than 6 million families across our nation.

We appreciate the mission that has been set before this committee in Senate Bill 266 (Act 70 of 2008), which clearly references agriculture in the committee's consideration of plans and directives to address the subject of climate change in the Commonwealth.

While Act 70 does call for agriculture to be considered in the context of the committee's work, we are very concerned about the Act's failure to specifically provide for adequate representation of agriculture. We cannot change what the Act has prescribed for the composition of the committee. However, we respectfully urge the committee to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure adequate expertise from Pennsylvania's largest industry during your deliberations and decisions related to agriculture and climate change.

The involvement of qualified representatives of agriculture on bodies established by the committee to consider matters particular to farming in the Commonwealth will foster development of an effective and balanced plan for Pennsylvania to accomplish the Act's objectives.

In that regard, I would like to express Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's sincere interest in being invited to serve on or work with subcommittees or other bodies that this committee creates to consider climate change issues relevant to agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our thoughts and views related to the committee's work. We wish you much success with your mission.