

## DELEGATION SENDS LETTER TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REQUESTING DELAWARE BE DESIGNATED A CROP DISASTER AREA -- October 9, 2008

Washington, D.C. --

Delaware's congressional delegation &ndash; Sens. Joe Biden and Tom Carper (both D-Del.) and Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.) -- sent the following letter to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture requesting Delaware be designated as a "crop disaster area" due to the drought condition report by Farm Services Agency for Delaware and the recommendations made by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture in Delaware. The delegation believes the designation will help farmers who have experienced economic losses this year as a result of the drought conditions.

The text of the letter is below.

October 8, 2008

The Honorable Ed Schafer

Secretary of Agriculture

U.S. Department of  
Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave.,  
S.W.

Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Schafer:

On behalf of the Congressional Delegation from Delaware, we are writing in support of Governor Ruth Ann Minner's request that Delaware be designated a crop disaster area. This request is in response to the recommendations made by Austin Short, Delaware Acting Secretary of Agriculture, and a drought condition report by Richard Bergold, Executive Director, Farm Services Agency for Delaware.

As you review the conditions in Delaware, please consider that farmers in our state have suffered significant economic losses to their crops due to severe drought conditions. Recent estimates show that a majority of farmers in Delaware have experienced losses in excess of 30 percent of their expected production for the crop year.

With these losses in mind, it is our hope that you will quickly review Delaware's request and initiate the steps necessary to determine that crop disaster conditions are present in Delaware. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Thomas R. Carper

Michael N. Castle

United States Senator

United States Senator

U.S. Representative

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