

From Shelli Riedesel

Shelli and Wade operate a sustainable (non-certified Organic) blueberry and cherry orchard in Yellow Bay (the former Yellow Bay Store property).

Max Baucus

Re: House Bill HR 875

Dear Mr. Baucus,

I certainly hope you send this bill packing. It makes no sense for the small family farm to comply with the regulations that this bill suggests. I understand that you are a “farmer friendly” representative [sic]. In the great state of Montana there are many of us hard working farmers who count on our elected officials to make the right decision.

I do not have a problem with combining agencies as the bill suggests. Nor do I have a problem with the inspection and regulation of large productions inside and outside of the US. What I do have a problem with is the language of this bill. It lumps all growers in the same category.

I do not want to fill out paperwork every time my chicken lays an egg or when I decide to sell a head of lettuce at the farmers market. I cannot keep track of every cherry that leaves my farm or every blueberry that a neighbor boy eats. This bill will ruin our operation and essentially put us out of business. I know that there are many families that feel the same way. Do you think this bill is overkill for a small farmer in Montana? I would really like to hear what you think.

Please do not approve this bill until the language describing “food production facilities” is tightened up. It will be a death sentence for most farmers in Montana and one more government agent foot in the family farm door.

Sincerely,

Shelli Riedesel

Lake County, Montana USA