

[INSERT YOUR BAKERY LOGO AND ADDRESS]

[INSERT DATE]

The Honorable [INSERT NAME]  
United States [INSERT: House of Representatives or Senate]  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

Dear [INSERT Representative or Senator] [INSERT NAME]:

I own a retail business located in your district and I am writing to you today on behalf of myself and other members of the retail baking profession to ask for your support in taking action on the increasing cost of wheat. Wheat prices are putting enormous pressure on the baker's ability to produce affordable, healthy products for our consumers. I am very concerned about the price increases that will have to be passed on to consumers as bakery owners take action to ensure the survival of their businesses. As a retail baker in U.S., I am facing escalating costs for commodities that I have never experienced before and that are threatening to overwhelm the entire industry.

With critically low reserves and the severe conditions in the wheat markets, the baking industry is at a crisis point. I am asking you to support an early out of the non-environmentally-sensitive acreage from the Conservation Reserve Program. Wheat is in short supply with three of the five wheat categories extremely short. I also urge you to curtail wheat exports until bakers and other domestic users are guaranteed the supplies they need. Other countries are stockpiling their strategic grain reserves; the U. S. should do the same until the USDA can ensure an adequate supply.

I urge you to approve a Farm Bill that restores balance between the need to provide Americans with affordable healthy food products and the desire for renewable fuels such as ethanol. With the ethanol program, acreage is being taken from food production to produce grain for bio-fuels. This is hitting the baking industry hard with escalating costs in all commodities and ingredients making this a concern for consumers and bakers alike.

I urge you to take action to ensure that consumers and the retail baking industry both continue to have access to affordable food products and ingredients.

Sincerely,