Honorable Representatives of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management:

My name is Philip Bravo, Jr., and I am a livestock producer on the Hualapai Nation. I am also the President of Mohave Livestock Association, the Mohave County Farm Bureau and the newly appointed President of the Hualapai Nation Soil and Water Conservation district.

First I would like to emphasize that with the push for alternative fuel will have a new effect on the farm bill under current guidelines, new farmers and ranchers may be eligible for 95% cost share. The movement in the Midwest and east of the Mississippi where small producers to turn to farming will qualify, which might take a majority of the already cut back funding. There should be an earmark set of funding for ranchers out west where there are more severe conditions due to prolonged drought. We have to overcome the amount of land it takes to graze, the long distances we have to lay pipe, the miles of fencing that have to be maintained.

We want to see the continuation of Emergency Programs, Drought Relief, Emergency Erosion, Resource Equipment Program, Natural Resources Conservation Services only to name a few.

Engineering (NRCS) – I feel that there should be an engineer for every zone within the states. I understand the third party vendor, but you have to understand that the cost of a third party vendor will take most of the funding for a project leaving the participant limited funding for projects. I also understand that the engineer should be figured in but the fluctuation of product prices from week to week due to rising oil prices.

Flexibility – all departments need to work together. I understand time lines but when you have to work with BLM, Forest Service, Wildlife and Native Lands, all have their policies; one needs to try and get a project completed within time lines while trying to work with so many agencies. When working on Tribal Lands we have cultural issues, sacred lands and political issues, taking all of this in, some of our projects may end up in default.

Funding is unclear when it is allocated to the state then divided to the zones. How do reservations fit into the division of funds? Are the funds allocated then monies set aside for tribes? It is unclear to me.

I.D. – I have a hard time with the way animal ID is being implemented, every state or every branded state has brand rules that should be used. Then only after the sale of

livestock leaving the ranch, should the trace back be implemented. Every ranch should have records up until the time of sale. It appears that we should be more concerned about protecting our borders from foreign diseases and disallowing any animal over thirty months of age to enter our country.

Streamline government police and have a direct relationship between small farmers and Washington, D.C. Increase direct relationship with tribal ranchers and farmers. Local presence of USDA, including the U of A Extension person, on the reservation who is involved in everything, not just range. That would increase environmental presence.

Direct funding of Tribes who have participated in Farm Bill programs in the past. Remove cost share rate for tribes – tribes are already at a disadvantage due to remoteness and high unemployment rate. Under the 1990 Farm Bill, NRCS, FSA and Grant and Loan Programs that were suppose to provide someone on the Reservation two days a week. We would like to comply with this law as it has not changed. Therefore, more direct presence on Indian Land at the very least honor the 1991 Farm Bill.

Direct funding for Technical Service Providers for all applicants. Increase personnel that serve rural areas. For our Tribal Nation, we are bound by tribal laws that everyone is to graze in an Association. The Association is not ever eligible as a Limited Resource Farmer because someone may have a job that prevents eligibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Bravo, Jr.

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Non-governmental Witnesses

House rules require non-governmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. **Name:** Philip Bravo, Jr.

2. **BusinessAddress:** PO Box 441
Peach Springs, AZ. 86434

3. **Business Phone Number:** (928) 769-2241

4. **Organization you represent:** _____

5. **Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:**
Former tribal herd ranch Manager for the Hualapai Nation. Rancher for over 20 years working with the Hualapai Nation and NRCS.

6. **Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:**

7. **If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:**
I am not representing anyone but I am affiliated with the Hualapai Nation Soil Conservation, Mohave Livestock Association and Mohave County Farm Bureau.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2004.

Name: Philip Bravo, Jr

Address: PO Box 441 Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Telephone: (928) 769-2244

Organization you represent (if any): Hualapai Nation (Peach Springs Livestock Association, Soil Conservation) Mohave County Livestock Association Mohave County Farm Bureau.

1. **Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do NOT require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:**

Source: N/A **Amount:**

Source: N/A **Amount:**

2. **If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:**

Source: **Amount:**

Source: **Amount:**

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you: ✓

Signature:

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: *Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.*

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.