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*House of Representatives*  
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**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Rep. Chris Ross *CR*  
**DATE:** October 13, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Legislation - **Agricultural Conservation Easements**

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to amend the Agricultural Area Security Law.

The current agricultural easement program explicitly allows for the creation of one additional farmstead residence. Sometimes, farmers do not need this additional residence and wish to further reduce the value of the property for a tax write-off or to make it easier to pass on to the next generation at a lower value. Current policy of the Department of Agriculture does not allow for the extinguishment of this right to an additional farmstead. I believe that the farmer should be allowed to exercise his or her judgment, based on their individual circumstances. This option would also be purely voluntary for the farmer.

This provision is contained in my HB 681 and is supported by various interests, but other provisions in that bill are not. By separating this provision into a separate bill, I hope to have favorable consideration.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact my office at:

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CR/dlm