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**NFU: State of the Union Positive for Rural America with Commitment to Renewable Energy, Trade Enforcement**

WASHINGTON (Jan. 24, 2012) – [National Farmers Union](#) (NFU) President Roger Johnson issued the following statement following President Obama’s State of the Union Address today:

“We are pleased that the president and the administration have renewed their pledge to the United States’ energy independence. As the president said, we need to seek ‘a future where we’re in control of our own energy, and our security and prosperity aren’t so tied to unstable parts of the world. An economy built to last, where hard work pays off, and responsibility is rewarded.’ Homegrown energy is how we keep money, jobs and families in rural America.

“Rebuilding the economy begins in rural America. It begins with U.S. family farmers and ranchers who provide food, fiber and American-made fuel. The farm bill is largest investment in rural America, and in order to ensure family farms and rural America can continue to prosper, it must be passed in 2012.

“We are encouraged by the president’s announcement of the formation of a trade enforcement unit. Trade is a necessity for U.S. agriculture, but we must all play by the same rules. This group will be critical to farmers and ranchers, ensuring that they have a level playing field in marketing their products.”

*National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.*