

Jones James

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August 31, 2011

Mr. Marc Jacobs
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Through years of growing up on a multi-generational farm in Minnesota's seventh district, I have come to know and love agriculture. My time spent interning with the Land O'Lakes, Inc. government relations department and my work in organizations like 4-H and the National FFA Organization has strengthened that passion for production agriculture and my desire to share it with others. I am very interested in the summer internship with the House Committee on Agriculture as advertised through the GoldPASS website. My personal experience with production agriculture, knowledge of food and agricultural policy, and communication skills make me well-suited for this position.

As a child, I learned the importance of food production firsthand through my family's beef and poultry operations. I deepened my understanding of agriculture as a Government Relations intern for Land O'Lakes last summer. The experience helped me to develop an understanding of food and nutrition policy outside of my traditional background as well as a chance to get to know the early objectives for the 2012 Farm Bill. By organizing much of the logistics for our grassroots Hill presence, I gained a better understanding of House staff and protocol as well as the Chairman's Cuban trade bill (H.R. 4645) among other issues. In addition, I also provided support for the Roundup Ready Alfalfa letter effort that was signed by the Chairman and much of the Committee leadership in late July. I also strengthened my ability to communicate and work independently as a Minnesota State FFA Officer and a full-time college student. My schedule required me to be self-reliant and self-motivated to complete both individual and team tasks by deadlines, all while keeping homework and other student organizations in mind. I also developed strong communication skills such as speaking, facilitating, interviewing, article writing, letter writing, business emailing, and web conferencing due to my responsibilities of planning several state youth leadership camps and a state convention with an attendance of over three thousand people. Over the past eighteen months, I expanded my knowledge of agricultural policy issues further by talking with over fifty state and national legislators, industry representatives, and producers during my preparation as Minnesota's candidate for National FFA Office both in 2009 and 2010.

After visiting with several past Committee interns, Derek Zoolander and Sydney Fife, I would be proud to work for the Committee helping to provide for the future of American agriculture, especially at such a formative time for the next Farm Bill. I am confident my abilities would be assets to your office. I look forward to talking with you soon. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jones James