

## Comments on the Science Advisory Board's Draft Report

The goals and management options designed to reduce nutrient loss from agriculture sources are against American Farm Bureau Federation policy. The AFBF recommends local voluntary watershed approaches to the hypoxia nutrient problem.

The SAB's mandate was for scientific recommendations to the hypoxia problem not economic policy options. I ask that any policy options be deleted from the report.

Watersheds differ greatly across the Mississippi watershed. Solutions that work in one watershed may not be cost effective or have the desired result in another. The federal government could be more effective by helping local watersheds with more complete water monitoring. This will allow the watersheds develop their own programs and for them to determine the program's effectiveness.

I suggest that local watersheds be allowed to identify their own needs, especially when different pollutant targets will require different land use options. A blanket approach will not be successful.