

Bond Praises Passage Of Farm Bill

Senator Wins Critical Research Provision In Final Bill

WASHINGTON, DC

US. Senator Kit Bond praised the passage of the federal Farm Bill conference report. The Farm Bill contains increased funding for nutrition programs, critical protections for farmers and increased federal investment in our nation's domestic production of energy. The bill also includes a Bond provision to increase our investment in agriculture research.

"While the Farm Bill is not perfect, it is balanced, bipartisan and worthy of support," said Bond. "Our farmers are depending on this bill to make sound business decisions and I am pleased that Congress has finally reached an agreement."

The Food and Energy Security Act of 2007 conference report passed the Senate by a vote of 81-15. The House passed the bill by an overwhelming majority vote of 318 to 106.

Bond praised the conference report for retaining his legislation to create the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Last year, Senators Bond and Harkin (D-IA) introduced legislation to create NIFA, which boosts federal investment in agriculture research to help keep America's farmers competitive in the world market. Bond stressed that NIFA will help provide consumers with a safe, affordable and nutri-

tious food supply. NIFA will be similar to the successful research programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF).

The ability of U.S. agriculture producers to maintain our world leadership is only as solid as our willingness to commit to forward-looking investments, noted Bond. The Bond-Harkin provision will lay the foundation for tremendous advances in the future and keep American agriculture on the cutting edge, said Bond.

In addition to Bond's NIFA legislation, the Farm Bill includes a safety net for farmers with new reforms, agriculture disaster relief, research initiatives for specialty crops and a greater focus on cellulosic ethanol. Bond emphasized that these initiatives are critical to farmers and consumers because they help keep our food supply affordable and safe.

The 2007 Farm Bill is estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to cost \$307 billion and out of that \$209 billion will go to nutrition, not farm payments. Bond noted that this means that nearly 70 percent of this bill goes to food stamps and other nutrition programs. Only 11 percent of this bill goes to farm payments, which is less than one percent of every federal dollar. Δ