



United States Senator

Kent Conrad

www.conrad.senate.gov

North Dakota

Dear Friend:

North Dakota is the most agricultural state in the nation. For generations, our family farmers and ranchers have fed our fellow Americans and the world at large. Agriculture continues to be the backbone of North Dakota's economy. That is why North Dakota's family farming and ranching is such a high priority on my legislative agenda in the United States Senate.

But our farmers are facing a tremendous crisis. North Dakota is at the epicenter of a national drought that the U.S. Agriculture Department is calling one of the worst on record. This is of enormous concern to me. The future of thousands of family farms and ranches is at risk. Our state's farm-dependent economy is at risk. It is crucial that the federal government respond to this crisis in our state.

North Dakota's farmers and ranchers are among the most resilient people on Earth. We have persevered in other times of disaster – brought upon us by drought, flood, frost and disease – and we shall persevere again. I am fighting today in the Senate for every North Dakota farmer and rancher, and for a better future for North Dakota.

KENT CONRAD

A handwritten signature of Kent Conrad in black ink, written in a cursive style.

United States Senator

Fighting for the Family Farmer

Climatologists with the National Drought Mitigation Center say North Dakota is at the heart of our nation's drought. Few farmers and ranchers, particularly those in the central part of the state, have been spared. Last year, the federal government designated every North Dakota county as a disaster area. Last Spring, Senator Conrad wrote the farm disaster bill to respond to 2005 losses. It passed the United States Senate with the promise of \$175 million in relief for North Dakota producers. But the White House and the majority leadership in the House of Representatives blocked that legislation.

Senator Conrad hopes an expanded farm disaster bill will bring relief to North Dakota's farm families this fall. "I've visited with North Dakota farmers and ranchers and walked their fields. They've been battered by bad weather. They need our help and they need it now," Senator Conrad says.

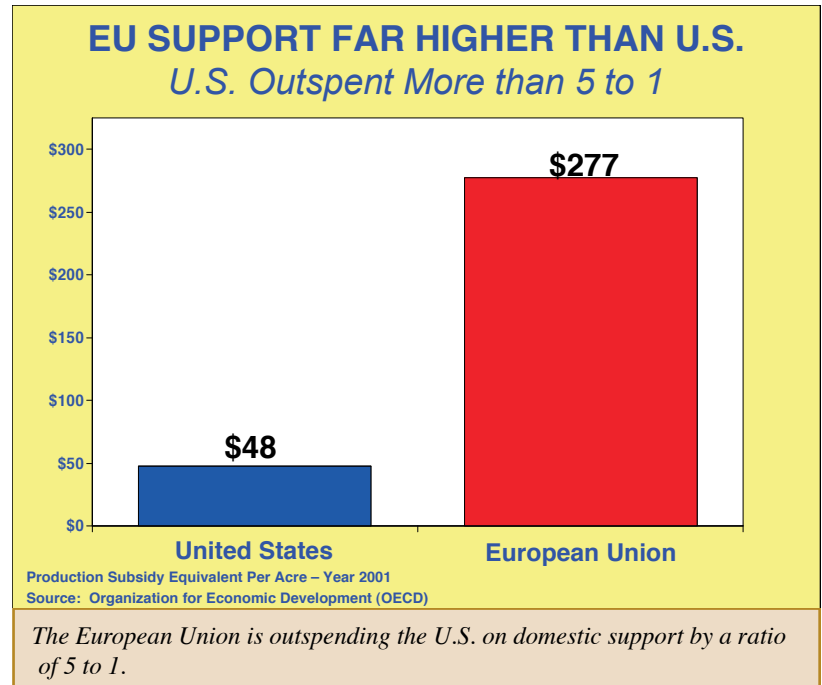


Senator Conrad talks with farmers about his ag disaster legislation.

Creating Opportunities in the World Marketplace

Senator Conrad has been a crucial voice in Washington, D.C., for North Dakota's family farmers and ranchers in the fight for fair trade practices.

Senator Conrad recently led a bipartisan majority of U.S. senators in calling on President Bush to reject a World Trade Organization proposal that would have cut domestic support for American farmers – while failing to open any new overseas markets for those producers. He believes it is time to level the playing field and end the unfair practices of our trading partners that put U.S. producers at a disadvantage. The European Union is outspending the United States by a ratio of 5-to-1 in support of its farmers.



Taking a Stand for Ranchers

Japan lifted a ban on imports of American beef – re-opening a crucial market that will benefit North Dakota ranchers – after Senator Conrad threatened retaliatory tariffs unless Japan ended its unfair trade barrier. The tariffs would have been imposed through a bipartisan bill, introduced with Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS). The ban had dramatically hurt North Dakota's \$740 million cattle industry.



In September, Senator Conrad received the National Farmers Union's most prestigious award, the Golden Triangle, in recognition for his leadership and service to family farm agriculture. He has won a total of 13 Golden Triangle awards.

"Senator Conrad is the only person who has received this award year after year," said Robert Carlson, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union.

Strengthening the Farm Bill

As one of the chief architects of the current Farm Bill, Senator Conrad is meeting with farm leaders to examine how the bill is working and how it can be improved. Because the Farm Bill has won praise from farmers as a model for future agriculture policy, Senator Conrad would seek to preserve the bill's basic structure. However, he supports improvements in three areas: promoting renewable fuels, improving crop insurance coverage, and revising current conservation programs. Many in Washington, D.C., want to slash federal farm programs and dismantle the vital farm income safety net.

As a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Conrad's top priority in the next year will be to extend and improve the farm bill to benefit farmers, ranchers and rural communities all across North Dakota. But this will be an uphill battle.

The BOLD Energy Act Does the following:

- Increases ethanol use to 30 billion gallons by 2025 and biodiesel use to 2 billion gallons by 2015.
- Creates incentives for consumers to purchase flexible-fuel vehicles, and offers incentives to automotive manufacturers who install new flexible-fuel technology in their consumer fleets.
- Invests in emerging technologies, such as hydrogen power, and coal-to-liquid fuel.
- Extends the wind energy tax production credit for five years, and provides an incentive for states to construct new transmission lines to reliably carry electricity.
- Boosts domestic oil production by encouraging oil companies to use carbon dioxide to extract more oil from low-producing fields; encourages responsible development in natural gas fields like the Gulf of Mexico's Area 181.

With abundant sources of biofuel feedstocks, and new biodiesel and ethanol plants, North Dakota farmers and rural communities stand to greatly benefit from the BOLD Energy Act.

“We can use our state’s vast resources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, keep energy prices affordable, and grow our state’s economy with new, high-paying jobs,” Senator Conrad says. “North Dakota could serve as the nation’s powerhouse.”

“It’s time to turn away from the Mid East and toward the Mid West for our energy. North Dakota could serve as the nation’s powerhouse.”
– Senator Kent Conrad

Developing a BOLD Energy Plan

High fuel prices are becoming a major financial strain for North Dakota farmers, families and businesses. At the same time, our nation’s dependence on foreign sources of energy is posing a risk to both our economic growth and our national security.

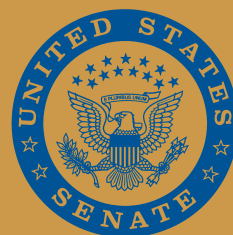
In an effort to massively increase domestic energy production and bring relief to American consumers Senator Conrad introduced the BOLD Energy Act. This sweeping legislation charts a new course for U.S. energy – turning our nation away from the Mid East, and toward the Mid West.

The BOLD Act will use tax credits, research grants and better fuel standards to pump more biodiesel and ethanol into the fuel tanks of our cars, our trucks and our tractors.



Senator Kent Conrad's

Agriculture and Trade Report



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Conrad".

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