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Congress of the United States
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

Farm Bill Good for Illinois

Vote 'YES' on final passage of the Food Conservation and Energy Act

Dear Illinois Colleague:

As you know, the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (i.e. Farm Bill) conference report is on the floor today. As a Member who represents a large number of Illinois' farmers, I strongly urge your vote in support of final passage of the bill.

The conference report, which is endorsed by every major agriculture group in Illinois, reduces government waste, improves nutrition and conservation programs, and supports biofuel production at great benefit to the Illinois farm economy. Most importantly, the bill extends a critical safety net to help Illinois farmers manage production risks when facing poor prices or natural disasters, ensuring we have access to an affordable and safe food supply.

Illinois receives the 4th most nutrition dollars in the nation. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of all farm bill spending will go toward food and nutrition programs to address the rising costs of food and food shortages.

The bill increases conservation spending to safeguard agricultural lands from the pressures of urban and suburban development, and to protect our natural resources.

Finally, the bill makes critical investments in Illinois' rural communities through biofuel production, telecommunications and wastewater infrastructure projects, and healthcare. In this time of economic hardship, we look to new industries to build the economy of our state. This bill puts \$1 billion in programs that will leverage renewable energy industry investments in new technologies and feedstocks. It also provides \$320 million for biorefineries producing advanced biofuels, and \$300 million for the Bioenergy Program.

The most important message I want to convey is that this farm bill provides programs that are important to every district in Illinois. Please support this comprehensive legislation that funds programs critical to rural and urban constituents across Illinois and our nation.

Sincerely,

PHIL HARE
Member of Congress

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