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July 5, 2007 - Action Alert No. 7

**SECURE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE POLICIES IN THE  
2007 FARM BILL!!!**

**URGE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE TO CO-  
SPONSOR AND SUPPORT AMENDMENTS DURING FULL COMMITTEE  
MARKUP**

Farm Bill activity continues hot and heavy with the full House Agriculture Committee scheduled to amend and vote on the farm bill the week of July 16th. **Between now and when they meet to markup, we need to urge members of the House Agriculture Committee to support amendments that promote land stewardship, beginning farmers, organic research, and farmers' markets/local food systems.** These amendments must be included in House Agriculture Chairman Peterson's "real" \* farm bill proposal in order for them to receive real funding in the final version of the bill.

On June 29th, the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Collin Peterson (D-MN) announced that he will present two farm bills to the House Agriculture Committee: a "real" bill that is completely funded and a "reserve" bill with programs that will only be funded in the event that offsets are found.

Amendments important to the sustainable ag community must be included in the "real" farm bill, with real money, for programs to meaningfully support family farm viability, healthy communities, local food systems, and successful rural economies.

Thus we are asking you to call Kansas Representatives Moran and Boyda and ask for their support of the four amendments below.

**PLEASE CALL OR FAX** Rep. Jerry Moran and Rep. Nancy Boyda **IMMEDIATELY** and ask for their aid that works on agriculture. If the agriculture aid is unavailable, leave a message with your name, phone number and the message below on the aid's voice mail or with the receptionist.

If you prefer to write, fax a brief letter with the points below, along with your name and address and contact information.

**Jerry Moran (KS-1) - Aid: Aaron Popelka 202-225-2715 FAX 202-225-5124**

**Nancy Boyda (KS-2) - Aid: Shana Guinn 202-225-6601 FAX 202-225-7986**

**The message:** I am a constituent (or resident of the Kansas) and I am calling to urge Representative Moran or Boyda to co-sponsor and stand up and express their support for the following amendments during the full House Agriculture Committee markup:

- **Support for beginning farmers and ranchers:**
  - \$25 million in annual mandatory funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (amendment to be introduced by Rep. Tim Walz, D-MN)
  - Conservation Reserve Program Farm Transition (amendment to be introduced by Rep. Tim Walz, D-MN and estimated to cost \$16 million over the length of the farm bill)
- **Incentives for superior conservation systems on land in agricultural production:**
  - \$1 billion in additional mandatory funding for the Conservation Security Program (to be introduced by Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY)
- **Support for regional agricultural economies and local food systems:**
  - \$25 million in annual mandatory funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program (to be introduced by Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY)
  - \$30 million in annual mandatory funding for Community Food Project Grants (not certain of sponsor yet)
- **Assistance for farmers' and ranchers' transition to organic production and for research that supports organic and sustainable agriculture systems:**
  - \$50 million in annual mandatory funding for the Organic Conversion program (amendment to be introduced by Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY)
  - \$15 million in annual mandatory funding for the Organic Farming Research and Extension Initiative (not certain of sponsor yet)

To download more information about these programs, please visit the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition website [www.sustainableagriculturecoalition.org](http://www.sustainableagriculturecoalition.org) and click into the Farm Bill Priorities for information on the below topics.

- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Initiative
- Conservation Security Program
- Farmers Market Promotion Program and Community Food Projects

- Organic Provision and Sustainable Agriculture Research

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**For Further Information, or to sign up for KRC Action Alerts, contact:**

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