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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2001, at 2:00 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT C. BYRD, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. From its very beginning, the Senate has opened its daily sessions with prayer. It continues to this day. Tennyson, that great poet, said:

More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of.
Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.

The prayer will be led today by the Senate Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie. Dr. Ogilvie, please.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, bless the Senators as they begin the August recess. During the time away from the daily stresses and strains of Washington, renew them mentally, spiritually, and physically. Give them quality time with family and friends. May relationships with their constituents in their States be strengthened as the Senators listen and learn what is on their minds and hearts. May these leaders, who give so much of themselves, allow You to give them what they need. Help them to rest in You, wait patiently for You to replenish their souls, and enjoy the sheer pleasure of leisurely hours. So much depends on these men and women. Help free them to depend on You more deeply. As this portion of the 107th Senate comes to a close, may these Senators feel that they have done their best and that You are pleased. Whisper in their souls, "Well done,

good and faithful servant." You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT C. BYRD led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. This morning, the Senate will vote on cloture on the Agriculture supplemental authorization bill. We expect to complete action on the bill today.

A reminder to all of my colleagues, all second-degree amendments to the bill must be filed before 10 o'clock. In addition, we expect to consider several Executive Calendar nominations today. I would like to begin the cloture vote in just a moment.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2505

Mr. DASCHLE. I understand there is a bill due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2505) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human cloning.

Mr. DASCHLE. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the order previously entered, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1246, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1246) to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers.

Pending:

Lugar amendment No. 1212, in the nature of a substitute.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 102, S. 1246, a bill to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American farmers:

Tom Harkin, Harry Reid, Jon Corzine, Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Jeff Bingaman, Tim Johnson, Edward Kennedy,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Jay Rockefeller, Daniel Akaka, Paul Wellstone, Mark Dayton, Maria Cantwell, Ben Nelson, Blanche Lincoln, Richard Durbin, Herb Kohl.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 1246, a bill to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American farmers shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are required under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) is absent because of a death in the family.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Akaka	Dorgan	Lincoln
Baucus	Durbin	Mikulski
Bayh	Edwards	Miller
Biden	Feinstein	Murray
Bingaman	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Breaux	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Byrd	Hollings	Reed
Cantwell	Hutchinson	Reid
Carnahan	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Carper	Johnson	Sarbanes
Cleland	Kennedy	Schumer
Clinton	Kerry	Snowe
Conrad	Kohl	Stabenow
Corzine	Landrieu	Wellstone
Daschle	Leahy	
Dayton	Levin	Wyden
Dodd	Lieberman	

NAYS—48

Allard	Feingold	Murkowski
Allen	Fitzgerald	Nickles
Bennett	Frist	Roberts
Bond	Gramm	Santorum
Brownback	Grassley	Sessions
Bunning	Gregg	Shelby
Burns	Hagel	Smith (NH)
Campbell	Hatch	Smith (OR)
Chafee	Helms	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Collins	Inhofe	Thomas
Craig	Kyl	Thompson
Crapo	Lott	Thurmond
DeWine	Lugar	Torricelli
Ensign	McCain	Voinovich
Enzi	McConnell	Warner

NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Domenici	Inouye
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The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 48. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] enters a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion to invoke cloture on S. 1246 was rejected.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion will be placed on the calendar. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER FUNDING FOR THE KLAMATH BASIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator HARKIN, for this opportunity to speak on the drought funding and legislative needs for the Klamath Basin in southern Oregon.

I understand that the bill currently being considered, the Emergency Agriculture Assistance Act of 2001, is primarily a bill to provide money for farmers suffering market loss this year. A market loss, as I understand it, happens when a farmer receives less money for his crop than he spent to produce it. But, due to drought, my constituents were unable to plant their crops.

Mr. HARKIN. I appreciate your understanding that there is a difference between the economic-based problems we are trying to address in the current bill and natural disaster related relief in an emergency or supplemental funding bill later this year, once we know the full extent of nature's toll on agriculture this season. However, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2001 provided \$20,000,000 for farmer families in the Klamath. How much additional money will the farmers in the basin be needing?

Mr. WYDEN. In the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2001 Congress provided \$20,000,000 in emergency money for farmer families in the Klamath. This amount was designed only to keep these farms afloat until further monetary assistance could be found or until the drought ended.

According to the Klamath Basin Water Users Association, this drought will cost the Klamath Basin agricultural community at least \$200 million above the \$20 million provided already. In 2000, the revenue for agriculture in the Klamath Basin, according to the USDA Farm Service Agency, was \$132 million. The projected income for 2001 is only \$28 million. There is a difference of \$104 million in lost revenues alone. That figure does not include the increased costs my constituents incurred to get through the drought with their farms intact, such as well augmentation and cover crop planting to protect topsoil from erosion.

May I count on the consideration of the Senator from Iowa, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and a member of the Agriculture Appropriation Subcommittee, as I pursue additional funding for the Klamath Basin farmers at the first possible opportunity?

Mr. HARKIN. I appreciate my friend's pursuit of relief for his constituents. I can promise to work closely with you concerning fair drought re-

lief funding for the farm families in the Klamath Basin.

Mr. WYDEN. In addition, there are other solutions for the Klamath Basin, such as, but not limited to, water conservation, wetlands restoration and irrigation system updates that will have to be considered. These may require legislative action. May I count on you to help me craft appropriate language that will be acceptable in the upcoming Farm Bill that will begin to address the long term solutions needed in the Klamath Basin?

Mr. HARKIN. I agree with you that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Certainly, I will work with you to address possible long term solutions for the Klamath in the Farm bill.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, this week the Senate has been trying to pass S. 1246, the Emergency Agriculture Assistance Act, legislation to provide emergency relief to U.S. farmers and ranchers suffering at this time. Unfortunately, certain members of the Senate have tried to politicize, delay, and complicate this very necessary legislation. Moreover, now that the House of Representatives has adjourned for the August recess, we may very well be forced to adopt a reduced level of assistance in order to match the House's lower funding level in a fashion that meets the President's needs, without a conference committee. If this must be the case, then I am sure the will of the Senate will be to adopt less funding for farmers, but I shall vote against reduced funding for our farmers and ranchers this year because I know it is not enough to adequately assist crop producers and livestock ranchers through the 2001 crop year, indeed a fourth year in a row of near-recession in agriculture.

I have made a quick calculation or two regarding the level of assistance expected if we indeed enact the House passed assistance level of just \$5.5 billion today. First, the funding for program crops nationwide will be reduced by around 16 percent. More importantly, South Dakota's farmers and ranchers stand to lose between \$30 and \$50 million. The reduced market loss AMTA payment in the House plan is 85 percent of the level in Senator HARKIN's plan, indicating to me that South Dakota farmers would lose around \$23 million in these market loss payments if we adopt the House plan. Moreover, the oilseed payment is reduced by about \$4.5 million under the House plan. Finally, if you count the assistance we provide to peas, lentils, wool, honey, flooded lands and conservation programs and total everything up, South Dakota may realize a loss of between \$30 and \$50 million under the House plan.

Under the leadership of Senator HARKIN, the Senate Agriculture Committee completed action on the fiscal year 2001 short-term economic assistance package for farmers and ranchers, providing \$7.494 billion, \$5.5 B in fiscal year 2001

funds plus \$1.994 B in fiscal year 2002 funds. The United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, said they must distribute the fiscal year 2001 funds, \$5.5 B in AMTA, by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2001. USDA has indicated the only way they can guarantee timely delivery of aid is to provide it through the bonus AMTA payment mechanism. Moreover, my colleague from South Dakota, the Majority Leader, Senator DASCHLE has received an assertion from the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, that Congress has to resolve this issue before the August recess in order to protect the \$5.5 billion set aside, for fiscal year 2001, for these emergency payments. Nonetheless, we have had trouble getting a final vote on this assistance package because some of my colleagues, whom I respect a great deal, are slowing the bill down because they are upset at the level of funding, \$7.4 billion.

In South Dakota, farmers and ranchers continue to struggle from terribly low commodity prices. While certain prices have improved in recent months, this short-term recovery in price, really just in the livestock sector, cannot compensate for nearly 4 years of recession in farm country. Most crop prices remain at 15-25 year all-time lows. Moreover, input costs such as fuel and fertilizer have increased dramatically, wiping out chances for producers to enjoy profits to keep operations afloat. Corn prices remain around \$1.55 per bushel, far below the \$4.50 range when the 1996 farm bill was enacted. Soybean prices are stagnant at \$4.50 per bushel, nearly \$4.00 less than soybean price levels in 1996. While wheat prices have made a very modest price recovery, they still remain less than \$3.00 per bushel, far below the \$5.55 level in 1996. Moreover, due to disease, drought, and winter kill, many South Dakota farmers had most or all of their winter wheat crop wiped out completely, so this modest increase in price won't help them because they may not have a crop to put in the bin.

All this at a time when aggregate production costs, the prices farmers pay for their inputs such as fuel and fertilizer, are 20 percent higher right now than the prices farmers receive for their commodities. This price-cost squeeze makes it very difficult to turn a profit in agriculture today. So, this assistance is badly needed. And while it is unfortunate that this assistance is necessary, I believe this aid is critical until Congress can write the next farm bill in a way that promotes and supports fair marketplace competition and good stewardship of our land.

Unfortunately, the administration and some Senators want to reduce the size of this emergency package, suggesting it provides too much assistance to our Nation's family farmers, or, alleging that it creates budget problems. Even more ridiculous is the assertion by some that no funding is necessary in fiscal year 2002 to help farmers. I be-

lieve we need to look at this from the farmers' perspective, a little tractor-seat common sense if you will, because farmers deal with crop years, not fiscal years. It all boils down to some in the administration wanting to implement this assistance based upon how the Government does business, by fiscal years, instead of how farmers and ranchers do business, by crop years. We need this assistance to span the current crop year, and therefore, it must allow for investments over both fiscal year 2001 and fiscal year 2002.

Further, our budget resolution, which was adopted by Congress and signed by the President, allows for this funding. The budget resolution enacted by Congress and signed by the President provided the Agriculture Committees authority to spend up to \$5.5 B in fiscal year 2001, with additional authority to spend up to \$7.35 B in fiscal year 2002, for a total of \$12.85 B in fiscal year 2001-2002 spending authority for agriculture. The committees were given total discretion to spend this money on emergency and/or farm bill programs. However, for the third time now, Office of Management and Budget, OMB, Director Mitch Daniels has signaled a possible veto threat if the Senate aid package totals more than \$5.5 billion in fiscal year 2001. A similar OMB threat was made as the House contemplated \$6.5 billion, and despite efforts to increase the aid in the House, the level ended up at \$5.5 billion. It cannot be argued that we are busting any budget caps, or endangering the Medicare or Social Security Trust funds, because this money has already been provided by the budget resolution, and it is not part of the \$73.5 billion (fiscal year 2003-2001) ag reserve fund. A veto is not warranted because the aid total for fiscal year 2001 is \$5.5 billion, precisely the level permitted under the budget resolution. The fact that an additional \$1.9 billion is provided in the grand total does not matter because it is actually fiscal year 2002 money, which we are permitted to spend under the budget resolution passed by Congress and signed by the President. The Senate Agriculture Committee voted to spend \$7.4 billion of both fiscal year 2001 and 2002 money because the current, 2001 crop year spans both fiscal years. It is a subtle, yet, critically important difference between a crop year and a fiscal year that must be understood in order to meet the needs of farmers. The 2001 crop year mirrors the 2001 calendar year, while the fiscal year 2001 fiscal year "expires" September 30, 2001. Several major commodities must be marketed after the fiscal year 2001 fiscal year ends, and prices for these commodities are not expected to magically improve after September 30. Clearly,

there is a necessity to provide economic aid into fiscal year 2002 as well. In order to provide modest aid in fiscal year 2002, we have chosen to take a modest \$1.9 billion, out of \$7.35 billion available in fiscal year 2002, to help producers through the entire 2001 crop

year. Unfortunately, the administration doesn't seem to understand the difference between a fiscal year and a crop year. Additionally, we left around \$5.4 B for additional fiscal year 2002 spending if needed.

Last year, as part of the crop insurance reform legislation, Congress provided a total of \$7.14 billion in emergency aid for both fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001, almost exactly the same amount of assistance we aim to provide this time around. Specifically, \$5.5 billion last year was allocated for bonus AMTA in fiscal year 2000, and, \$1.64 billion for other needs in fiscal year 2001. Coincidentally, Congress and the President understood the need to provide assistance in fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the 2000 crop year, thus, a precedent has been set to do it once again. Furthermore, let us not forget that every major farm organization actually requested at least \$9-10 billion in emergency ag support this year. Our legislation doesn't provide that total, but it does cover a majority of the immediate economic distress in agriculture today. I find it ironic that some in the Senate would rely upon the OMB Director, Mitch Daniels, on how much farm aid is necessary when what we are trying to pass in the Senate, \$7.4 billion, is supported by farmers, including the following farm groups; Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, the National Corn Growers, and the National Assn. of Wheat Growers.

Yet some are still suggesting that spending \$5.5 billion, most of it in fiscal year 2001, will be enough to help U.S. family farmers and ranchers. However, 19 Republicans in the House Agriculture Committee, including the Chairman Larry Combest, voted against an amendment to reduce the size of the House package to \$5.5 billion because they believe that \$5.5 billion does not go far enough to assist farmers and ranchers at this time. The vote to reduce the size of this assistance for farmers to \$5.5 billion in the House Ag Committee passed by just one vote. The House passed emergency package falls short, by 16 percent, on the level of support Congress provided to program crops last year. Moreover, the Lugar or House plan does not include any funding for critical conservation programs such as CRP and WRP. Finally, Chairman Combest and other House Republicans were so concerned with the inadequacy of the House passed \$5.5 billion that they wrote their "viewpoints" or "concerns" into the House passed legislation. Their concerns, accompanying the House farm aid state, and I am quoting from what House Republicans wrote about their own ag emergency bill now:

...H.R. 2213, as reported by the House Agriculture Committee is inadequate. . . .the assistance level (\$5.5 billion) is not sufficient to address the needs of farmers and ranchers in the 2001 crop year. . .At a time when real net cash income on the farm is at its lowest level since the Great Depression and the cost of production is expected to set a record high, H.R. 2213 as reported by the Committee

cuts supplemental help to farmers by \$1 billion from last year to this year. Hardest hit will be wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybean, and other oilseed farmers since the cuts will be at their expense.

This is very concerning to me. Many of the farmers that will suffer if we go with \$5.5 billion—the wheat, corn, grain sorghum, and soybean farmers, are trying to make a living in my State of South Dakota. So, as you can see, these very poignant words prove that the House passed \$5.5 billion level of assistance is woefully inadequate. I will stay and fight on the Senate floor for increased funding this week to ensure South Dakota's farmers are assisted with the construction of a more sturdy bridge over this year's financial problems.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, let me first commend the efforts of my colleagues who are working very hard to deliver some form of Federal relief to prevent the demise of more of America's family farms.

While this bill provides much needed emergency assistance to certain sectors of the agricultural community, I am concerned about this bill for several reasons.

It guarantees very generous Federal subsidies at higher levels than in previous years even though these same subsidies were eliminated or intended to be phased out by the 1996 farm bill. It disproportionately favors large farming operations over smaller ones. It adds \$5 billion to the already \$27 billion delivered in supplemental and emergency spending for farmers since 1999. This is funding in addition to Federal payments or loans authorized through the 1996 farm bill. While the 1996 farm bill was intended to reduce reliance on the Federal Government, payments to farmers have increased by 400 percent, from \$7 billion in 1996 to \$32 billion in 2001.

Again, I recognize that many Americans in the agriculture industry are facing economic ruin. However, already this year, the Senate has included \$4.7 billion in wasteful, unnecessary, or unreviewed spending in five appropriations bills. Surely, among these billions of dollars, there are at least a few programs that we could all agree are lower priority than desperately needed aid for America's farmers.

I appreciate the agreement of my colleagues to put before the Senate the House bill that conforms with the agreed-upon budget resolution. Through this bill, billions of dollars are provided in supplemental payments to oilseed producers, peanut producers, wool and mohair producers, tobacco producers and cottonseed producers.

Fortunately, this bill does not include additional egregious provisions proposed in the Senate version of the bill, such as continuing subsidies for honey producers, extension of the dairy price support program, perks for the sugar industry, and various other new or pilot programs.

Recent indications are that these continuing supplemental payments that Congress obligates from taxpayer dollars are now paying at least forty percent, if not more of total farm income. How are we helping the farming sector to become more self-sufficient? Our actions are only serving as a crutch to small farmers while fattening the incomes of large farming conglomerates and agribusinesses. We should learn from past failures and take responsible action to focus Federal assistance on a fair, needs-based approach.

This bill passed by unanimous consent today, despite the disagreement of some of my colleagues who advocated for a much higher level of supplemental spending. I hope that my colleagues will exercise greater prudence and fiscal responsibility when we return from the August recess to consider the agricultural appropriations bill and reauthorization of the 1996 Farm bill to ensure that such ad-hoc spending is brought under control.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2213, the Agriculture supplemental bill, that the Senate proceed to its consideration, that the bill be read the third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. I further ask unanimous consent that S. 1246 be placed on the calendar and that the previously entered motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote on S. 1246 be in order.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the several requests.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2213) was read the third time and passed.

(The bill will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This corrects the fact that the motion to reconsider was not properly entered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am extremely disappointed that our Republican colleagues chose to work against us instead of with us to provide critical financial relief to help farmers and ranchers deal with the fourth year in a row of low prices. My colleagues' choice to filibuster the committee bill, which a majority of Senators supported, was a decision we could not afford.

Unfortunately, it will cost farmers and ranchers across the country. For my State of South Dakota, that decision to filibuster will cost producers over \$50 million in decreased assistance. But, South Dakota is not alone. Producers in each and every one of our states are being deprived of critical assistance because of the actions of my Republican colleagues.

Why? Because the President and Senate Republicans drew an arbitrary and partisan \$5.5 billion line in the sand.

Even though the budget resolution authorizes the Senate Agriculture Committee to use \$5.5 billion in fiscal

year 2001 and \$7.35 billion in fiscal year 2002 to provide economic assistance to producers, and even though it specifically allows the use of fiscal year 2002 funds to support the 2001 crop, the President insisted that we spend only \$5.5 billion. His rationale "The farm economy is improving, so farmers don't need any additional help."

That is certainly not what I am hearing in South Dakota, and I know it is not what my colleagues on this side of aisle have heard in their states. Across the country, poor prices have hobbled producers for 4 years now.

Major crop prices, despite showing slight improvement over last year's significantly depressed prices, remain at 10 to 25-year lows. Net farm income minus government payments for 1999 thru 2001 is the lowest since 1984. Input costs are at record levels, making it more expensive for producers to do their job than ever before.

Despite all this, my Republican colleagues insisted on a bill that provides far less. Less for feed grain, wheat, and oilseed producers in my part of the country. Less for rice and cotton producers in the South. Less for specialty crop producers in the Northeast and Northwest.

And when I say less, I not only mean less than what is in the Committee's package, but less than what is absolutely needed.

Chairman HARKIN worked hard to improve on the House-passed \$5.5 billion package. His package provided the full level of last year's market loss assistance for producers of major crops. It provided significant funding for specialty crops. It provided a substantial commitment to agricultural conservation.

Yet, my Republican colleagues filibustered. Why? Are they planning to go home and tell producers they fought long and hard to provide you with less?

Now that we are forced to pass the House legislation, we have lost for too much of what is critically needed for program crops, specialty crops, and conservation. This is reckless, and it's wrong. America's farmers and ranchers deserve better, much better.

So, I can't help but feel this country's farmers and ranchers got short-changed. But what also troubles me is what the actions of my Republican colleagues over the past few days mean for the farm bill. Congress must come together quickly to write new farm policy this year so we don't have to keep coming back for more ad hoc emergency assistance, year after year.

Congress must get passed its stubborn refusal to acknowledge the failures of current farm policy and work together to change it. We need policies that better address the interests of family farmers and ranchers. Farmers and ranchers must have an income safety net that can offset severe price fluctuations, and that can help manage uncertainties in the marketplace. Such

policies are critical to long-term survival in an industry in which the majority of producers operate on margins of less than 5 percent.

I believe there is a lot we can agree on. And by working together, I am certain there is a lot we can accomplish. I stand ready to work with my Republican colleagues. But, my colleagues must first choose to stand up for America's family farmers and ranchers.

I am hopeful they will.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am very disappointed by the Emergency Agricultural Supplemental that this body has just passed because of the President's opposition to the much better legislation reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee and the fact the House of Representatives already left for the August recess. The Senate has passed a bill that fails to provide adequate aid to America's farmers and rural communities. Some on the other side of the aisle claimed that the bill passed by Senate Agricultural Committee spends too much money in support of America's farmers and that the farm economy is improving. I wish that were the case, but the facts in rural America do not support that assertion. The major farm groups do not agree with that conclusion, that is why they supported the stronger alternative, the bill proposed by the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee Senator HARKIN.

As we all know, our Nation's farmers have not shared in the prosperity which many Americans have experienced over the past decade. In the past three years, Congress has assisted America's farmers by providing substantial assistance to agricultural producers. No one, not least of all America's farmers, likes the fact that annual emergency agriculture supplementals have seemingly become routine.

Senator HARKIN, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, crafted an impressive bill that addressed the needs of specialty crop farmers, in a more comprehensive fashion, than does the bill that just passed the Senate.

The bill that just passed provides nearly a billion dollars less in AMTA payments for traditional row crops than did the committee version. In addition, the passed bill makes no real effort to address the problems faced by farmers in States that do not rely on AMTA payments. It is difficult for a Senator with a large base of specialty crops to support it. This bill provides no more than a pittance for specialty crops. None of this pittance even goes directly to farmers of specialty crops. We have told farmers that they need to diversify if they are to succeed, yet the States that have diversified and specialized receive next to nothing in the House bill.

I am concerned about some of the arguments made to support the exclusion of funds for specialty crops. In particular, I am troubled by those who claim that payments should not be

made to specialty crops because aid to producers of these crops cannot be dispensed by the end of the fiscal year. It was argued that payments should only be made to crops that can easily receive funds before the end of this fiscal year. I understand the need to get money to farmers as soon as possible. However, this money must also not only be distributed promptly it must be distributed fairly. Providing assistance chiefly to program crops may be prompt, but it ignores the needs facing many farmers throughout the Nation. Senator HARKIN, and the Senate Agriculture Committee, drafted a bill that, just like the last three emergency supplementals, dispensed money credited to two fiscal years. This bill would have allocated the \$5.5 billion in FY01 funds to AMTA payments which can be dispensed this year, while specialty crops and conservation will be addressed in fiscal year 2002 monies that are already provided for in the budget resolution. This bill provides less assistance for row crops than does the committee, passed bill, and it is unfair to farmers who do not grow specialty crops.

The passage of this bill will lead to the loss of the following programs:

\$150 million in market loss assistance for apple growers. It is estimated that apple growers have lost \$500 million last year due to unfair trade and weather related disasters. Furthermore, some estimate that the industry may lose as much as 30 percent of its farmers this year without some form of aid.

\$270 million in commodity purchases of specialty crops. These purchases provide food for shelters, food banks and schools, yet that money, \$50 million of which will be used for the school lunch program, is not in the House version.

The \$44 million sugar assessment, which has been suspended the past two years due to our budget surplus is not waived this year.

\$542 million needed to fund conservation programs is excluded from the House version. As a result many important programs will lie dormant.

The number of farmers in our nation has been declining for well over a century. Now, farmers comprise only 1 percent of our population. The declining number of farmers and the increasing scarcity of Federal dollars makes it harder and harder to sustain the level of assistance we provide our farmers. Part of the success of current farm policy is that programs such as Women Infants Children program, WIC, balance rural and urban interests and attempt to meet the needs of each community. Assistance to the agricultural sector must address the concerns of all Americans if it is to continue at the needed level. The bill passed by the Senate fails to do that. This trend of narrowly focused farm programs cannot be sustained.

The next farm bill that this body undertakes must help all Americans while helping farmers. The committee-passed bill addressed issues im-

portant to all of us: hunger, conservation and energy independence. This bill does not. Gone is the \$270 million allocated for commodity purchases that would have helped specialty crop farmers, like cherry, bean and asparagus farmers in Michigan, while providing foodstuffs to school lunch programs, food banks and soup kitchens that guarantee a healthy diet is available to all Americans.

The conservation programs included in S. 1246 but not in the bill we just passed would have prevented erosion, preserved green space, increased wildlife habitat and ensured a clean water supply. Currently, in the State of Michigan there are three farmers who apply for every open slot in Federal conservation programs. These farmers will now have to wait even longer to participate in these programs.

I commend the chairman and the Senate Agriculture Committee for the hard work they put into the Agriculture Supplemental Bill which they reported to the Senate. The bill passed by this body, because the President's opposition to the better alternative left us no choice, ignores the needs of specialty crop producers and fails to fund farm programs that have the broader effect of helping all Americans.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to express my extreme disappointment with the agriculture supplemental assistance package the Senate passed today.

This week, the Bush administration did a great disservice to our nation's farmers, to rural communities, and to agricultural conservation programs around this nation. The administration's veto threats forced the Senate to pass a bill that does not meet the needs of farmers in my State.

In fact, this bill is completely inadequate to meet the needs of our farmers and rural America. The bill abandons our apple producers. It abandons our pea and lentil producers. And it rejects a fair emergency payment to our wheat producers.

It didn't have to be this way. Senator HARKIN worked with many of our colleagues to draft a balanced \$7.4 billion emergency economic package. I fought hard to include \$150 million in emergency payments for apple producers. I worked to include \$20 million in assistance for dry pea and lentil producers. And many Senators worked together to ensure that wheat and other program crop producers received an emergency payment equal to what they received last year.

The Harkin bill was balanced, fair, and fiscally responsible. It deserved to become law. Yet, throughout this debate, the Bush administration steadfastly threatened to veto any bill larger than \$5.5 billion. Today, President Bush won, and our farmers lost.

Instead of the Harkin bill, the Senate passed the House agriculture supplemental bill. We passed it because the President will sign it. We passed it because further delay threatened the

availability of \$5.5 billion in emergency relief. We did not pass it because it's the best bill possible.

The President's veto threats have cost Washington state producers \$103 million. Let me repeat that: According to the Senate Agriculture Committee, President Bush's veto threats will cost Washington State producers an estimated \$103 million in assistance. That includes the \$50.3 million in assistance our apple growers would have received under the apple aid package.

I would like to thank Senator HARKIN for his support for specialty crop producers. Senator HARKIN worked tirelessly to help all regions and all producers. In my opinion, he could not have put together a more balanced and fair package.

I would also like to thank Senator DASCHLE. Senator DASCHLE is committed to working with us to address the shortfalls in the House bill. I look forward to working with him to complete the unfinished business we began this week.

This fight is not over. I would urge my colleagues to return from the August recess ready to pass an agriculture aid package that is balanced and fair to America's farmers.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise regarding the Senate's passage of H.R. 2213, the House-passed Emergency Agriculture Assistance Act.

There is a great need for economic assistance in farm country. There is no disagreement about that fact.

There has been no disagreement that we will spend the \$12.85 billion provided in the budget for agriculture in fiscal years 2001 and 2002. The question has been on when and how we will spend it.

I wanted to pass an emergency bill with more emergency money than was in the House-passed bill. I was willing to work toward a compromise that met the current needs of our farmers—even if that meant spending a small portion of the fiscal year 2002 funding.

I had asked for Senate action on this supplemental since before the House passed its emergency assistance package on June 26th—more than a month ago. But, time ran out.

The House bill does not fund all the needs of Idaho's farmers and ranchers. It is not a perfect solution, but it is a necessary one. We now have a good start in providing short-term assistance to our producers. I hope we can build on that when we return in September.

We should move quickly to a farm bill. A fair and effective national food policy that recognizes the importance of a safe, abundant, domestic supply of food.

Farmers and ranchers across the country are looking to us to pass legislation that will: provide a safety net to producers, increase the commitment to conservation, bolster our export promotion programs, continue our commitment to agricultural research, and, find innovative ways to address rural development needs.

These are pressing needs. These are important needs, and the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee tried to address many of these needs in the economic assistance package. Now that we have allocated the \$5.5 billion for fiscal year 2001, I hope that we can now focus our efforts on the farm bill.

I look forward to working in cooperation with the chairman and ranking member of the Agriculture Committee to craft a fair and effective bill as expeditiously as possible.

But, as those of us who worked on the 1996 Farm Bill know, the farm bill alone will not solve all our problems. We must continue to pursue tax reforms, address unfair regulatory burdens, and move toward free and fair trade. Our producers are being handcuffed by unfair foreign competition and barriers to exports, it is time this stopped.

I hope the recent debate on the emergency supplemental has raised awareness of the needs in agriculture. I hope this has prodded us to action on the farm bill. And, I hope we can work together for the needs of not just agricultural producers, but the consumers that benefit from efficient, safe, domestic food production.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to express my disappointment that funding in the Committee-passed bill that is important to Maine is no longer a reality. While the emergency agriculture assistance bill the Senate passed today provides \$2 million for Maine, including \$850,000 for a State grant for specialty crops, gone is the possibility of conferees making any decision to reauthorize or extend the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

Gone is the \$5 million for Maine for incentive-based voluntary agriculture conservation programs. Gone is the \$270 million for CCC commodity purchases for Northeast specialty crops for the federal nutrition programs, such as wild blueberries, cranberries, and potatoes. Gone is \$150 million in Apple Market Loss Assistance, of which \$1.6 million would have gone to apple growers in Maine. Gone is the \$25 million for disaster payments for the recent devastation from armyworms, some of which would have gone to Maine hay farmers.

Gone is the \$20 million for fiscal year 2002 for the Senior Nutrition Program, called Senior Farm Share in Maine. This is a program for low income elderly that allows them to obtain shares with which to purchase locally produced produce throughout the growing season.

Out of a \$5.5 billion package passed by the Senate today, the State of Maine will receive approximately \$2 million. I am deeply troubled by the unbalanced and unfair emergency agriculture bills Congress continues to pass that almost totally ignore the farmers in my State of Maine and throughout the Northeast. My votes on this emergency agriculture funding bill reflect my true disappointment that once, again, funding for farmers and rural

communities in Maine and the Northeast was left out. As we begin to work on the 2002 farm bill, I hope my colleagues are willing to work with the Northeast Senators to rectify this unbalance and this unfairness.

I am also disappointed that the legislation does not include the Dairy Consumers and Producers Protection amendment, which as a free-standing bill is sponsored by 37 of my colleagues from New England and throughout the Mid-Atlantic states and the Southeast.

This legislation reauthorizes the very successful Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. As my colleagues are, by now, no doubt aware, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact will expire on September 30 of this year if it is not reauthorized by Congress.

The compact has unquestionably been of great benefit to preserving our dairy farms, while also assuring consumers a continuous, adequate supply of quality local milk at a stable price . . . saving consumers money overall by helping to stabilize milk prices . . . and generally helping regional economies. In my home State of Maine alone, our 463 dairy farms produce products valued at \$100 million, and provide employment for approximately 2,100 Mainers.

The compact grew out of the need to address a fundamental problem in the New England dairy farming community—the loss of family dairy farms, which was largely the result of increased production costs, coupled with price volatility in the milk market. Farm milk prices have fallen more than five percent in real dollars since 1985, and New England dairy farmers have struggled with this decline.

However, 5 years ago, New England dairy farmers were able to stabilize the effects of this decline when Congress passed the Compact as part of the Freedom to Farm Act, and it was implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since then, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact has provided a reliable safety net for small family farmers throughout New England by helping to maintain a stable price for fresh fluid milk on supermarket shelves.

Now, I know that one of the chief arguments made by detractors is that the compact is harmful to consumers. The facts, however, tell a different story.

For consumers, the compact translates to the addition of a small increment in the price of milk—a recent University of Connecticut study put the cost at 2.5 cents per gallon. Indeed, rather than overcharging New England milk drinkers, the compact has instead resulted in milk prices ranking among the lowest and most stable in the country. And it's no small point that Federal nutrition programs, such as the Women, Infants, and Children Program, or WIC, are held entirely harmless under the Compact. In fact, the advocates of these federal nutrition programs support the compact and serve on its commission.

In return, the compact has paid off with lower, more stable dairy prices in New England that more fairly reflect farmers' costs. As testimony proved at the July 25 Judiciary Committee hearing held by Senator LEAHY of Vermont, the existence of the Northeast Dairy Compact has had a tremendous, positive impact—without threatening or otherwise financially harming any other dairy farmer in the country.

In response to my recent request, the Departments of Agriculture throughout New England sent me data that clearly shows that the compact has slowed the rate of dairy farm reductions in the New England Dairy Compact area. These letters show that in the 3 years prior to the compact's establishment, New England lost 572 dairy farms, compared to 408 farms in the 3 years since its implementation. Even during this period of historic lows in milk prices, 164 fewer farms left the business.

How has this worked? Under the compact, whenever the Federal Government's minimum price falls below that of the Northeast Dairy Commission, which administers the compact, dairy processors are required to pay the difference to farmers. Moreover, the compact has given dairy farmers a measure of confidence in the near term for the price of their milk so they have been willing to reinvest in their operations by upgrading and modernizing facilities, acquiring more efficient equipment, purchasing additional cropland and improving the genetic base of their herds. Without the compact, farmers would have been far more hesitant to do these things—if at all—and their lenders would have been much less willing to meet their capital needs.

And the compact has protected future generations of dairy farmers by helping local milk remain in the region and preventing dependence on a single source of milk—from outside the region—that can lead to higher milk prices through increased transportation costs, as well as increased vulnerability to natural catastrophes.

All this has been accomplished without threatening or otherwise financially harming any other dairy farmer in the country. In fact, more than 97 percent of the fluid milk market in New England is self-contained within the area with strong markets for local milk because of the demand for freshness and high transportation costs to ship milk in from other areas.

In short, the compact provides a fairer value for dairy farmers, and protects a way of life important to New England—a win-win situation for everyone involved, at no cost to the Federal Government. Let me repeat—the costs of operating the compact are borne entirely by the farmers and processors of the compact region, at absolutely no expense to the federal government.

Moreover, the compact provides environmental benefits through preservation of dwindling agricultural land and open spaces that help to combat the

growing problem of urban sprawl, particularly near large cities. As a July 29, 2001 Boston Globe editorial pointed out, "A wide range of environmental organizations back the compact, seeing it as a defense against the sprawl that often occurs when beleaguered farmers sell out to developers."

The amendment offered by Senator SPECTER of Pennsylvania would have permanently authorized the Northeast Compact, as well as giving approval for states contiguous to the participating New England states to join, in this case, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. It would also have granted Congressional approval for a new Southern Dairy Compact, comprised of 14 states—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Why did the amendment include all of these States—half the country? The answer is that dairy compacting is really a States rights issue more than anything else, as the only action the Senate needs to take is to give its congressional consent under the Compact Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 10, clause 3, to allow the 25 states to proceed with their two independent compacts.

Consider 24 other States with Maine's and you have a reflection of all of the Northeast and Southern Compact legislators—and all of their Governors—who have requested nothing more than congressional approval to "compact".

All of the legislatures in these 25 States, including Maine, have ratified legislation that allows their individual States to join a Compact, and the governor of every State has signed a compact bill into law. Half of the States in this country await our congressional approval to address farm insecurity by stabilizing the price of fresh fluid milk on grocery shelves and to protect consumers against volatile price swings.

Altogether, these 25 States make up about 28 percent of the Nation's fluid milk market—New England production is only about three and a half percent of this. This is somewhat comparable to two States of Minnesota and Wisconsin which together make up to 24 percent of the fluid milk market. California makes up another 20 percent.

Detractors have also claimed that compacts encourage the over-production of milk, but again, the facts say otherwise. In the nearly four years that the compact has been in effect, milk production in the Compact region has risen by just 2.2 percent or 100 million pounds of milk. In Wisconsin alone, milk production increased by almost 900 million pounds, or 4 percent. Nationally during this identical period, milk production rose 7.4 percent.

And finally, those who oppose this compact assert that it discourages trade between compact and non-compact states. To the contrary, dairy compacts require farmers from inside

and outside the compact region to receive the compact price. An OMB study found that trade in milk in the compact region actually increased by 8 percent 1 year after the compact was implemented—further, 30 percent of milk sold in the compact region was produced outside the compact region in the State of New York.

As we work on the fiscal year 2002 Agriculture appropriations, and the 2002 farm bill, I hope that my colleagues realize that should the Compact Commission be shut down even temporarily while Congress grapples with its extension, it cannot magically be brought back to life again. It would take many months if not a year to restore the successful process that is now in place. I do not want to gamble with this process in such a manner that endangers the livelihoods of the dairy farmers of Maine.

During debate on this bill, according to the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Mr. HARKIN, the compact amendment offered was not germane to this particular bill. According to the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. KOHL, an extensive debate is needed on the compact reauthorization. Since the farm bill is an appropriate vehicle for this debate, I would hope these Senators will work with me to extend the Northeast Compact until such time as the 2002 Farm bill is completed.

The bottom line is, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact has provided the very safety net that we had hoped for when the compact passed as part of the omnibus farm bill of 1996. Mr. President, the Dairy Compact has helped farmers maintain a stable price for fluid milk during times of volatile swings in farm milk prices . . . the consumers in the Northeast Compact area, and now in the Mid-Atlantic area and the Southeast area, have shown their willingness to pay a few pennies more for their milk, none of it at government expense, if the additional money is going directly to the dairy farmer and environmental organizations have supported dairy compacting as a means to help to preserve dwindling agricultural land and open spaces.

I urge my colleague not to look success in the face and turn the other way, but to support us for a vote on the compacts that half of our states support.

Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the following material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF MAINE, DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RE-
SOURCES,

Augusta, Maine, July 3, 2001.

Senator OLYMPIA J. SNOWE,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SNOWE: We have worked closely on the reauthorization of the Northeast Dairy Compact. I am grateful for your

efforts and I know Maine's dairy farmers are as well. I understand that the issue of reauthorization is coming to the top of the Congressional agenda. I want to reiterate how critical the Compact is to dairy farmers in Maine and the region, and to provide you with the latest facts.

There are 463 dairy farms comprising 220,000 acres in Maine. These herds, which total about 42,000 animals, produce milk valued at more than \$100 million annually. Those farms directly employ 1,389 people. There are 1,486 indirect jobs attributable to the dairy industry.

Maintaining the number of dairy farms, not just the number of cows, is important to Maine. Dairy farms are an important and in some cases, the only contributor to small town economies. The contribution is vital to maintaining an economically viable rural environment.

The Compact was designed to assure the continued viability of dairy farming in the Northeast and to assure an adequate, local supply of milk. The Compact has met both goals.

More than \$139.4 million has been distributed through December 31, 2000, to dairy farmers in the region since the Compact's inception, of that \$13.7 million has gone to Maine dairy farmers. In the five years leading up to the Compact the number of dairy farms in Maine dropped to 514 from 614, a 16 percent decrease. In the five years since the Compact the loss was only 9 percent, from 514 to 463.

At the same time, WIC programs in the region have received \$4 million and the school lunch programs across the Northeast have received \$700,000. These payments are made under the Compact to hold harmless those who need milk most.

The Compact creates milk-price stability and farmers receive a fair price. By maintaining the viability of dairy farming, it creates economic stability in rural New England. The money from milk checks is spent at local feed stores, equipment dealers and deposited at local banks. By helping to keep families on working farms, the Compact preserves farmland. The people of Maine when asked about public policy have consistently ranked the conservation of open space as a high priority.

The benefits of the Compact, and the balances it creates, are all provided with no tax dollars. I proudly support the reauthorization of the Northeast Dairy Compact and strongly encourage your continued support.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. SPEAR,
Commissioner, Department of Agriculture.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD,
June 27, 2001.

Senator OLYMPIA J. SNOWE,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510.

DEAR SENATOR SNOWE: You have asked for comment on the impact of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact on the stability of the dairy industry in New Hampshire.

Since the Compact's inception in July 1997, the number of farms producing milk for the commercial market in this state has declined from 187 to 176. Several of these farms have exited because of death of the operator; the land of these farms in most cases is being operated by a neighboring farmer.

But focusing solely on change in the numbers of farms may be a mistake, for we have seen a period of stability in production come during the time the Compact has been in effect. With a measure of confidence in the near term price of milk our farmers have been willing to reinvest in their operations by upgrading and modernizing facilities, ac-

quiring more efficient equipment, purchasing additional cropland and improving the genetic base of their herds.

Without the Compact's role in milk pricing during periods when Federal Order prices were at rock-bottom lows our farmers would not have had the courage to modernize and improve their operations and their lenders would not have had the willingness to meet their capital needs. If there had been no Compact, I would expect that by now we would be down to 130 or even fewer farms.

The investments made in our dairy enterprises as a consequence of the stability brought by the Compact serve our New England consumers by helping to assure reliable sources of fresh milk at reasonable cost.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN H. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT,
Providence, RI, July 2, 2001.

Senator OLYMPIA J. SNOWE,
Russell Senate Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SNOWE: I am responding to your recent letter requesting information regarding the positive effects of the Northeast Dairy Compact on protecting and maintaining dairy farms.

Rhode Island has a healthy, though limited dairy industry, and is considered a consumer state. While the number of dairy farms in Rhode Island is small in comparison to other Compact states, their viability is important to our agricultural economy, and they additionally have important benefits for open space protection, wildlife habitat etc.

In terms of pure numbers, there are currently 23 active dairy farms in Rhode Island, down from 32 at the initiation of the Compact in 1997. In 1983 there were 123 dairy farms, which reveals that 6.5 farms were lost per year on average prior to the Compact, and that rate has declined to 2.3 farms lost per year since inception of the Compact.

It was not anticipated or expected that the Dairy Compact would end the loss of dairy farms. Significant other factors contribute to farm losses (in general) which put pressure on the viability of the farm (ie. death of the operator, tax and estate issues, development pressure, loss of tillable land etc).

What the Dairy Compact has clearly done, from our perspective and the specific testimony of Rhode Island dairy farmers, is to improve the business climate of the farm, enabling farmers to better withstand pressures which before often brought about the downfall of the farm. This is evidenced by the decline in farm losses after initiation of the Compact. It is our observation that the dairy farms which remain are more viable, more stable, and a better business risk for lenders, which has allowed operations to modernize and other improvements to occur which improve the farm's chances for survival in coming years.

I hope this information and perspective is useful. Please contact me if I can further assist.

Sincerely,

KENNETH D. AYARS,
Chief, RIDEM/Division of Agriculture.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER,

June 22, 2001.

Senator OLYMPIA J. SNOWE,
Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SNOWE: The people of Connecticut have been consistently supportive of the Northeast Dairy Compact.

Connecticut is a state of 3,000,000 persons and about 3,000,000 acres. It is a state with a

great deal of diversity, with an economy that has evolved from one that was agriculture based to an industrial society and today is on the way to becoming a high tech Mecca. Yet dairy farms remain an integral part of the state's quality of life.

Why do Connecticut citizens support the Compact?

Because 70% of the working landscape in the state is utilized by dairy farmers;

Because of the state's 225 dairy farms, 60% open their farms to the public to tour the farm, visit a pumpkin patch, milk a cow, pet a calf, enjoy a hayride, go through a corn maze, or just take a quiet walk in a meadow to observe wildlife;

Because dairy farms have become important school systems that use in class and on farm visits to bring real-life, hands-on experience to the science and math curriculum;

Because of the \$60 million farmers received from the Compact three percent went to support WIC programs and one percent to reimburse school lunch programs;

Because during the five years since the Compact has been in place, the attrition of dairy farms dropped (64 in the five years prior, 47 in the five years after); and

Because in the Dairy Compact area, consumers have enjoyed some of the lowest retail milk prices in the country.

I support the Northeast Dairy Compact because a stable milk price is as beneficial to our state's consumers as it is to our processors, retailers and farmers.

Thank you for your support of this important, groundbreaking legislation!

Sincerely yours,

SHIRLEY FERRIS.

STATE OF MAINE—JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REAUTHORIZE THE NORTHEAST INTERSTATE DAIRY COMPACT

Whereas, Maine has nearly 500 dairy farms annually producing milk valued at over \$100,000,000; and

Whereas, maintaining a sufficient supply of Maine-produced milk and milk products is in the best interest of Maine consumers and businesses; and

Whereas, a University of Connecticut study, done while the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact has been in existence, concluded that from July 1997 to July 2000, the price of milk to the consumer increased 29c of which 4 1/2c went to the farmer; and

Whereas, Maine is a member of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact; and

Whereas, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact will terminate at the end of September 2001 unless action is taken by the Congress to reauthorize it; and

Whereas, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact's mission is to ensure the continued viability of dairy farming in the Northeast and to assure consumers of an adequate, local supply of pure and wholesome milk and also helps support the Women, Infants and Children program, commonly known as "WIC"; and

Whereas, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact has established a minimum price to be paid to dairy farmers for their milk, which has helped to stabilize their incomes; and

Whereas, in certain months the compact's minimum price has resulted in dairy farmers receiving nearly 10% more for their milk than the farmers would have otherwise received; and

Whereas, actions taken by the compact have directly benefited Maine dairy farmers by not diminishing the farmer's share; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Congress reauthorize the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, each member of the United States Congress who sits as chair on the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture or the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, the United States Secretary of Agriculture and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. I also ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be recognized: Senator HARKIN for 20 minutes; Senator CLINTON for 10 minutes, Senator SCHUMER for 10 minutes, Senator LINCOLN for 5 minutes, Senator DORGAN for 15 minutes, and Senator DAYTON for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President—and I do not intend to object—I think the Senators who wish to be heard on this issue should have an opportunity. I did want to see if the ranking member on this side might have some request at this time with regard to the timing of the speeches or indications of how votes might occur. I withdraw my reservation and yield the floor to Senator LUGAR.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator cannot yield the floor.

The Senator from Indiana is recognized.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that Senators SESSIONS, COLLINS, GORDON SMITH, and TIM HUTCHINSON voted “yes” on the unanimous consent request as granted by the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Very well.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I inquire if Members on our side wish time. There are requests: From Senator ROBERTS for 10 minutes, 5 minutes for Senator CRAIG, and I reserve 15 minutes for myself.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. I thank the Chair.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask that the Senators alternate, Republican and Democrat, as we acknowledge those who have requested time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

There is no objection.

Mr. DASCHLE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, before the distinguished majority leader leaves the floor, I inquire, then, about any plans for further votes to occur today or this afternoon.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I failed to add to the list Senator LEAHY. I ask 5 minutes for Senator LEAHY.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, with this unanimous consent request, there will be no more rollcall votes today. I thank all Senators for their cooperation.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand under the unanimous consent request I am recognized for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 20 minutes.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, here is the situation, just for the benefit of all who are watching and wondering what happened. Basically what has happened is that the Senate just took up the House-passed Agriculture emergency bill and passed it, and therefore it will be sent to the President for his signature. I also point out we still have pending in the Senate the bill that was passed by our committee and there has been entered a motion to reconsider that has been placed by our leader, by Senator DASCHLE of South Dakota. So at some point when we come back it is entirely within the realm of feasibility or possibility that this Senate might want to revisit that Senate bill because it is clear that the House bill is totally inadequate to meet the needs of our farmers across the country.

I am proud of our committee and the work it did. Keep in mind that our committee was not reconstituted or able to do business until June 29, because the Senate organizing resolution was held up until then. And we did not have our full membership until July 10. But our committee worked diligently to look at the entire spectrum of farm families across America to try to determine what was needed to keep these farm families in business, keep their heads above water for yet another year until we can get a farm bill passed. The bill we reported out met the needs of farmers across America. Yet the White House said no.

I again point out that our committee voted the Senate bill out on a bipartisan vote. The Senate voted, again on a bipartisan vote, in favor of our bill and the provisions we had in our bill. But the White House said no.

Now we are at the point, because the House has left, they went home, and because we need to get this money out, that a gun is held at our heads by the White House and by OMB. They are saying if we do not pass the House bill, or if we pass something more adequate to the need in rural America we may lose even the \$5.5 billion the House provided. So the gun was held at our heads and the White House refused to compromise.

Yesterday I spoke several times with the head of the Office of Management

and Budget, Mr. Daniels, I spoke with the President's chief of staff, and I spoke with the Secretary of Agriculture to see if they would at least meet with us to see if there could be some compromise worked out. I said to the President's chief of staff last night: I respectfully request a meeting with the President at least to lay out our case on why the House bill was inadequate. That meeting was denied. So the President decided he would accept only \$5.5 billion, which is only about three-fourths of what Congress passed in a similar bill last year.

I had a long visit with the head of OMB on the phone last night to try to determine why they picked that number. He said: Well, it looked as if farm income was a little bit better this year.

I said: Compared to what? We have had extremely low commodity prices, in some cases at about 30-year lows. Now, because livestock receipts were up a little bit the ag picture looks a little bit better than it did last year, but we are still in the basement. However, the money in this bill mainly goes to crop farmers, and they are the ones who are hurting the most. They are not only as bad off as last year, but they are probably worse off than last year because the prices are still low and all of their production costs have gone up—fertilizer, fuel, everything. Yet somehow the bean counters down at OMB have said no, the House bill is sufficient.

I will resubmit for the RECORD at this time letters or statements from just about all of the main farm organizations: The American Farm Bureau, National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Corn Growers Association, the American Soybean Association, the National Barley Growers Association and others—all saying that the House bill is inadequate. I ask unanimous consent they be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Voice of Agriculture, Monday July 30, 2001]

FARM BUREAU DISAPPOINTED IN HOUSE FUNDING FOR FARMERS

WASHINGTON, DC., June 21, 2001—The House Agriculture Committee's decision to provide only \$5.5 billion in a farm relief package “is disheartening and will not provide sufficient assistance needed by many farm and ranch families,” said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman.

“We believe needs exceed \$7 billion,” Stallman said. “The fact is agricultural commodity prices have not strengthened since last year when Congress saw fit to provide significantly more aid.”

Stallman said securing additional funding will be a high priority for Farm Bureau. He said the organization will now turn its attention to the Senate and then the House-Senate conference committee that will decide the fate of much-needed farm relief.

“Four years of low prices has put a lot of pressure on farmers. We need assistance to keep this sector viable,” the farm leader said.

“We've been told net farm income is rising but a closer examination shows that is largely due to higher livestock prices, not most of American agriculture,” Stallman said.

“And, costs are rising for all farmers and ranchers due to problems in the energy industry that are reflected in increased costs