

Final 06/15/00 8pm

Gottheimer

A - *Agreement*
June 18 00

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TAPED ACTUALITY ON SIGNING OF CROP
INSURANCE REFORM BILL

June 18, 2000

212 860 6074

Today I'm signing into law the Agriculture Risk Protection Act, which makes the federal crop insurance system more inclusive and affordable. The bill also includes \$7.2 billion in emergency farm assistance, to help farmers suffering from plummeting crop prices. While this bill is important, it still fails to fix what is plainly an unsuccessful farm policy.

We should be targeting assistance where it is truly needed instead of making payments to farmers who haven't planted a crop, and who don't need our help.

near all farms
will have crop
options

That's why we need to revise, revamp, and improve the 1996 Freedom to Farm Bill – to build a safety net that adequately protects our nation's farmers.

#

U/M(Y) Comments

P.02/03

Draft 06/15/00 3pm
Gottheimer

00 JUN 15 4:16

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TAPED ACTUALITY ON SIGNING OF CROP INSURANCE REFORM BILL
June 18, 2000

Today I'm signing into law the Crop Insurance Reform bill, which makes the federal crop insurance system more inclusive and affordable. The bill also includes \$7.1 billion in emergency farm assistance, to help farmers suffering from plummeting crop prices.

This emergency package - the third in three years - fails to fix what is plainly an unsuccessful farm policy. We shouldn't make payments to farmers who haven't planted a crop, and who don't need our help. ~~And the emergency assistance we give should be targeted to farmers most in need, with payments increasing as incomes decline.~~ We need to revise, revamp, and improve the 1996 Freedom to Farm Bill - to build a safety net that adequately protects our nation's farmers.

be targeted assistance where
it is only needed instead of
making

Jack Lew
x54840

OMB Comments

Draft 06/15/00 3pm
Gottheimer

00 JUN 15 PM 3:16

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TAPED ACTUALITY ON SIGNING OF CROP INSURANCE REFORM BILL

June 18, 2000

Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000

Today I'm signing into law the ~~Crop Insurance Reform bill~~, which makes the federal crop insurance system more inclusive and affordable. The bill also includes \$7.1 billion in emergency farm assistance, to help farmers suffering from plummeting crop prices. JK

This emergency package - the third in three years - fails to fix what is plainly an unsuccessful farm policy. We shouldn't make payments to farmers who haven't planted a crop, and who don't need our help. And the emergency assistance we give should be targeted to farmers most in need, with payments increasing as incomes decline. We need to revise, revamp, and improve the 1996 Freedom to Farm Bill - to build a safety net that adequately protects our nation's farmers.

and other~~I am glad that~~

*These falling prices have been a
serious hardship for rural
families, and I am glad that these farmers
will receive much needed relief.*

*Wesley Warren
K 53842*

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 6-15-00 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAP
Subject: Taped Actuality on Crop Insurance Ref. Bill

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	LOCKHART	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
LEW →	☒	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	REED	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BRAIN	☒	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
EDMONDS	☒	☐		☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐		☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐		☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐		☐	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐		☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

fax x62505
To Gottheimer

RESPONSE:

cc: Sylvia Mathews
W. Warren
R. Ricci
R. Nabors
C. Kieffer

③
④
⑤
⑥
⑦

- ③ Patients' Bill of Rights
- ④ CHIP
- ⑤ Long Term Care
- ⑥ min wage
- ⑦ education

there and through-out the world. And if you look at the size and the potential of the Indian subcontinent, if they could find a way to manage their difficulties, there's probably no other place in the world with the capacity for growth and modernization over the next two decades that you will find there. If you look at the success of Indians, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis in the United States, that's clear evidence of that. So I'm going to do the best I can.

Syria

Q. Do you have a meeting coming up with the Syrian President?

The President. I don't have anything else to say about my foreign policy agenda today. But I will in the next several days, continue to talk to you about all this stuff. And I thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to city attorneys John A. Misci, Jr., of Camden, NJ, Manuela Albuquerque of Berkley, CA, and Dee Joyce-Hayes of St. Louis, MO; king Fahd Al Saud of Saudi Arabia; and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria.

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Put spotlight

began support
(family reunion)

it continues through
lead

Jennifer
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C. Josh

Open work/Sos/

Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns, a nine term New York Democratic Congressman, is a leader in Congress advancing many of the issues important to his constituents in Brooklyn. As a senior member of the exclusive Commerce Committee, Congressman Towns will be in line to Chair either the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, or the Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials if the Democrats win the majority. In fact, the 2000 Congressional Election represents a significant opportunity where, for the first time in United States history, at least 3 African Americans would serve as Chairmen of the Ways & Means Committee, the Judiciary Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. In all, as many as 10 African Americans would chair important Subcommittees in a Democratic Congress.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Edolphus Towns has been an effective behind-the-scenes champion for health care, Social Security and Medicare. Congressman Towns has fought for issues that are of greatest concern to New Yorkers, such as: combating hate crimes; reducing youth violence; providing better education; and promoting greater access to affordable, high quality health insurance for all Americans.

• I am also greatly disturbed by Senate's failure to act on my nomination of Dolly Gee, for a seat on the US District Court for the Central District of CA. Another nominee, Kathleen McCree Lewis would become the first African American woman ever to serve on the Sixth Circuit.

• These are just the first steps. We are also looking to nominate more minority candidates, including more Hispanics.

• Pressing domestic issues that Congress should address this year: ^{① P Noz Boy} ^{② AUF}

~~1. Crime~~ ~~PNTR~~

~~2. Guns~~ – we must pass common sense gun legislation.

① MUMBO
② MC Bump

~~3. Medicare~~ – reform Medicare & pass volun prescrip drug benefit. ③ PSON

~~4. Min. Wage~~ – raise it \$1 over 2 yrs.

~~5. Tobacco~~ – pass legis allow FDA to regulate tobacco.

④ MTP 10 (8-1)

~~6. Education~~

⑤ LTC
⑥ Min W
⑦ EQ-

• 1992 Roadmap. Today we have Results. opportunity, responsibility, community

Ed Bergassi

LaDane Williamson] event
co-chairs

Rep. Ed Towns
Gwen Towns

~~Ed Towns~~

Thad?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

6/14

TO: Josh Gottheimer
Tabe Sibert
Stephanie Cutter
Megan Moloney

FR: Sean O'Leary

RE: Here is a draft
Radio Actuality from
USDA and some
background info.

BA

DRAFT

RADIO ACTUALITY
PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
SIGNING OF CROP INSURANCE REFORM BILL

This bill will make the federal crop insurance system more inclusive and more affordable for our farmers and ranchers. These insurance reforms reflect many of the ideas that my Administration, led by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, has been pushing for the last two years.

The bill also includes \$7.1 billion in emergency farm assistance. With continued low prices, we clearly need to take action to help struggling farmers. But this assistance should be targeted and countercyclical, with payments increasing as incomes decline, and vice versa. We shouldn't make payments to farmers who haven't planted a crop and who don't need the help.

This emergency package - the third in 3 years - makes it clear that we need to create a stronger safety net for our family farmers and ranchers. I am disappointed that the Congress failed to move in that direction and failed again to fix what is plainly an unsuccessful farm policy.

Instead of stop-gap solutions, we need to rebuild the safety net, abandon the failed policies of Freedom to Farm and completely reevaluate the principles of our farm policy.

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720-9091
in Dallas

AC.

Glickman recommends Clinton sign farm bailout bill

WASHINGTON, June 13 (Reuters) - U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recommended on Tuesday that President Bill Clinton sign a \$7.1 billion bailout package for American farmers hurt by depressed crop prices.

Glickman said although Congress, which approved the bill in late May, failed to deal with some basic farm policy issues, the overall legislation would benefit U.S. farmers. The bill also would lower the cost of crop insurance to farmers.

"At this stage, the positive things in the bill particularly the crop insurance changes coupled with some emergency relief," Glickman said, "outweigh any desire on my part to not see the bill signed into law."

The farm rescue package approved by the House and Senate was the third federal bailout for ranchers and growers in three years to cushion them from depressed grain prices and lackluster exports.

The first round of the new aid, \$5.5 billion, would be distributed in late August and September to grain and cotton growers, USDA officials said.

((Randy Fabi, Washington Commodities, 202-898-8394, fax 202-863-1049))

REUTERS

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Farm Aid, 0884

Third straight farm bailout approved by Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) Congress approved the third big bailout of the farm economy in as many years, a \$15 billion package of cash payments to growers plus subsidies to make crop insurance much cheaper and more widely available.

The legislation now goes to President Clinton for his expected signature. The Senate passed the measure 91-4 Thursday after the House approved it on a voice vote.

The aid is intended to compensate growers for depressed commodity prices as well as to encourage farmers to protect themselves in future years by buying higher levels of crop insurance.

"While the economy as a whole has been booming, farmers have faced low prices for nearly three long years," Rep. Bill Barrett, R-Neb. "Agriculture is vital to every American and every congressional district."

The legislation includes \$5.5 billion in payments that are expected to be sent to growers in late August or September, Agriculture Department officials say.

The extra cash would mean an additional \$16,000 this year for a 500-acre corn farm, while a typical wheat grower would get about \$19,000 more. A farmer growing 300 acres of cotton would receive an additional \$12,000.

Some \$8.2 billion is earmarked for sharply reducing premiums on the federally subsidized crop insurance over the next five years and expanding the coverage to commodities that aren't currently covered.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman praised the insurance overhaul, saying it would "improve our farmers' ability to manage the risk that is inescapable in their line of work."

But he criticized Congress for refusing to alter the Republican-authored 1996 farm law, which ended a Depression-era system of price supports and production controls.

"Stopgap, quick-fix emergency assistance is not the most effective or efficient way to help struggling farmers," Glickman said.

The successive government bailouts have served to stabilize farm income and land values, said Alan Barkema, an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Now, with cattle and hog prices on the rebound, "things are a bit brighter than they were 18 months ago," he said.

USDA officials say the extra money for crop insurance will pay for itself by making farmers less dependent on other forms of government assistance.

In addition to reducing premiums, coverage will be expanded to fruit, vegetables and other commodities for which insurance hasn't been available before. The federal subsidy for the most popular level of insurance will rise from 42 percent to 59 percent.

"By providing producers more affordable levels of coverage, there should be less need for Congress to pass emergency assistance on a year to year basis," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

The \$5.5 billion in direct farm payments would go to grain and cotton producers who have annual "market-transition" contracts with the government. That cash is in addition to \$5.1 billion in payments that those producers already were scheduled to get this

year.

An additional \$1.6 billion in the legislation is earmarked for a variety of special commodities, including:

\$500 million for soybean and sunflower growers.

\$340 million for tobacco growers, to compensate for falling cigarette sales.

\$200 million for the government to buy a variety of surplus commodities, including apples, black-eyed peas, cherries, citrus, cranberries, onions, melons, peaches and potatoes.

\$100 million for cottonseed producers.

\$25 million to fruit growers in the Northeast hurt by plum pox virus.

The legislation also would authorize \$250 million for research over the next five years on ways to make ethanol and other chemicals from crops, grass and trees.

It was the second major victory in as many days for farm organizations, who were celebrating the House's approval Wednesday of permanent normal trade relations for China.

The farm lobby also is pushing Congress to allow sales of food to Cuba and won a small victory Thursday. The House GOP leadership, which wants to preserve the embargo on Cuba, had planned to force a vote on the issue Thursday but abruptly put it off until after the congressional Memorial Day recess.

"We'll come back and hopefully come to some agreement," said Rep. George Nethercutt, R-Wash., who is leading the effort in the House to ease the Cuba embargo.

The four senators who voted against the farm bailout were all Republicans: Jon Kyl and John McCain of Arizona, Connie Mack of Florida and Don Nickles of Oklahoma. Five senators did not vote: Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.; Judd Gregg, R-N.H.; Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii; Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska; and George Voinovich, R-Ohio.

The bill is H.R. 2559

On the Net: Senate Agriculture Committee:

[http://www.senate.gov/\(tilde\)agriculture](http://www.senate.gov/(tilde)agriculture)

House Agriculture Committee: <http://www.house.gov/agriculture>

(PROFILE

(CAT:Agriculture;)

(CAT:Business;)

(CAT:Financial;)

(CAT:Political;)

(CAT:Tobacco;)

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 5/26/00 9:20 AM

UPDATE 1-Congress approves farm bailout, insurance package
(Updates with Senate vote, edits throughout)

By Julie Vorman

WASHINGTON, May 25 (Reuters) - The Senate and House approved on Thursday a \$7.1 billion bailout for American farmers hurt by depressed crop prices that also would make federal crop insurance cheaper and easier for growers to buy.

As the rescue package sailed through Congress, a separate agriculture measure that would allow U.S. food and medicine sales to Cuba was headed for a fight in the House between farm state lawmakers and Republican leaders.

Growing support among both Republican and Democrats for easing the sanctions has challenged the desire of the House leadership to quietly kill the measure without a House vote. Negotiations were continuing behind the scenes, with some legislative aides predicting a vote sometime in June.

Rep. George Nethercutt, a Washington Republican and chief sponsor of the Cuba amendment, declared a procedural victory on Thursday. "Leadership had thought that they did not need to deal fairly with us," a Nethercutt aide said. "That approach has now been soundly rejected."

Congress imposed sanctions on Cuba in the hopes of ousting Cuban President Fidel Castro, who led the Communists to power on the island in 1959. The island buys some \$700 million of food annually.

The farm rescue package approved by the House and the Senate was the third federal bailout for ranchers and growers in three years to cushion them from depressed grain prices and lackluster exports. Under the package, U.S. farmers would receive an average \$3,750 apiece.

The package now goes to President Bill Clinton, who is expected to sign it into law.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said the president would approve the measure despite concern that some of the \$7.1 billion will go to farmers who do not need the money.

"I'm not going to recommend a veto based on that," Glickman told reporters.

The first round of aid, \$5.5 billion, would be distributed in late August and September, according to U.S. Agriculture Department officials.

The bill also includes major changes to the federal crop insurance program to make it cheaper and easier for farmers to buy coverage over the next five years.

Rep. Charles Stenholm, a Texas Democrat, said he supported the legislation despite concerns lawmakers were acting months before harvest.

"We have no hard numbers as to the extent of what kind of disaster assistance we may need this year," Stenholm said, referring to drought conditions in some crop-growing states. "I would have been more comfortable in taking our time to fully assess the situation later this year."

The other portion of the package includes \$8 billion to modify the federal crop insurance program. The crop insurance subsidy would rise by \$1.6 billion a year.

Since late 1998, Congress has approved more than \$15 billion in emergency farm aid to buffer the impact of low

prices. By many economists' estimates, a recovery in rural America remains at least a year away.

This year's bailout includes \$5.5 billion for grain and cotton growers, double the amount they receive in annual supports under the landmark 1996 law that sought to phase out farm subsidies.

The package also includes \$1.64 billion for soybeans, peanuts, tobacco, fruits and vegetables.

((washington.commodsenenergy.newsroom@reuters.com))

REUTERS

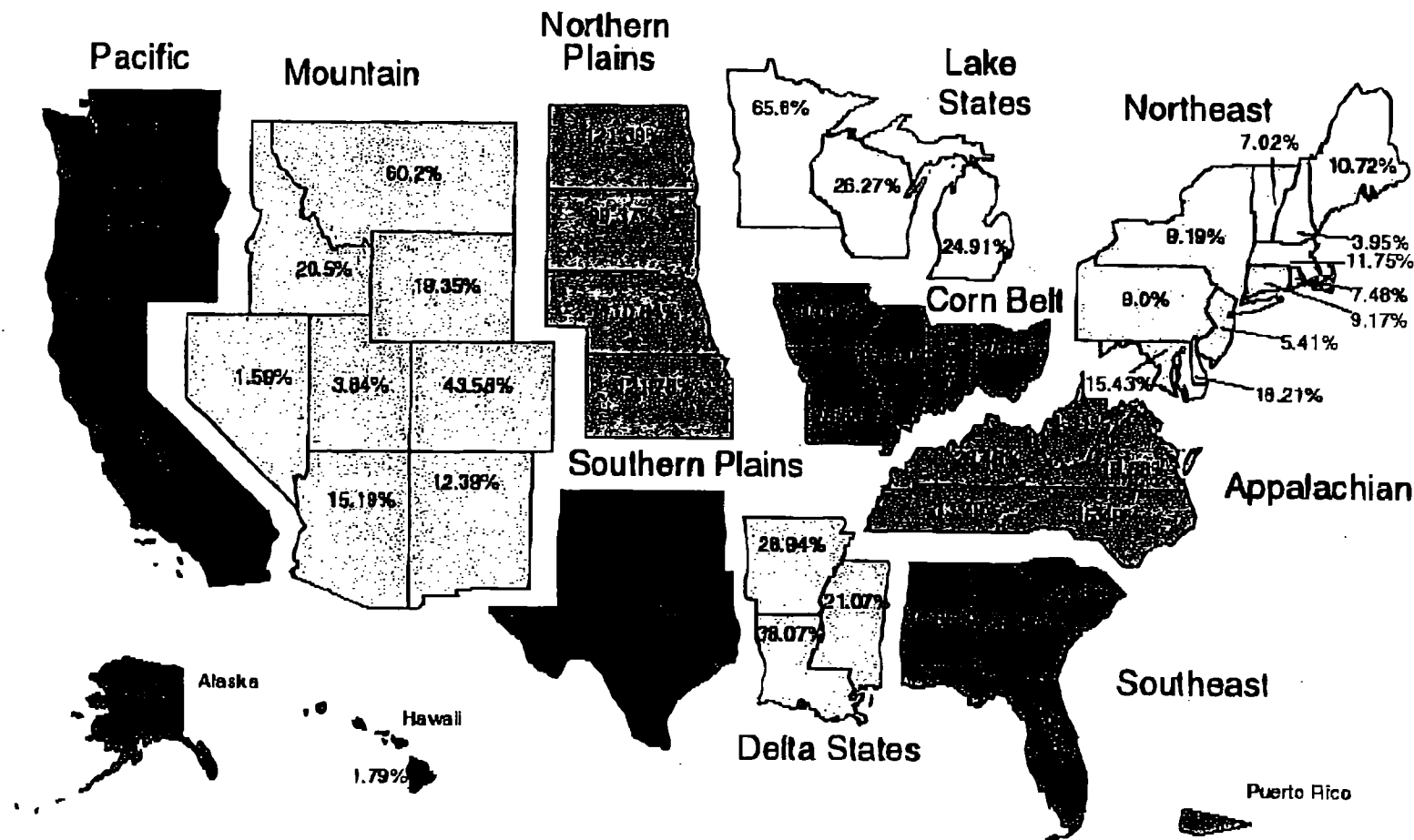
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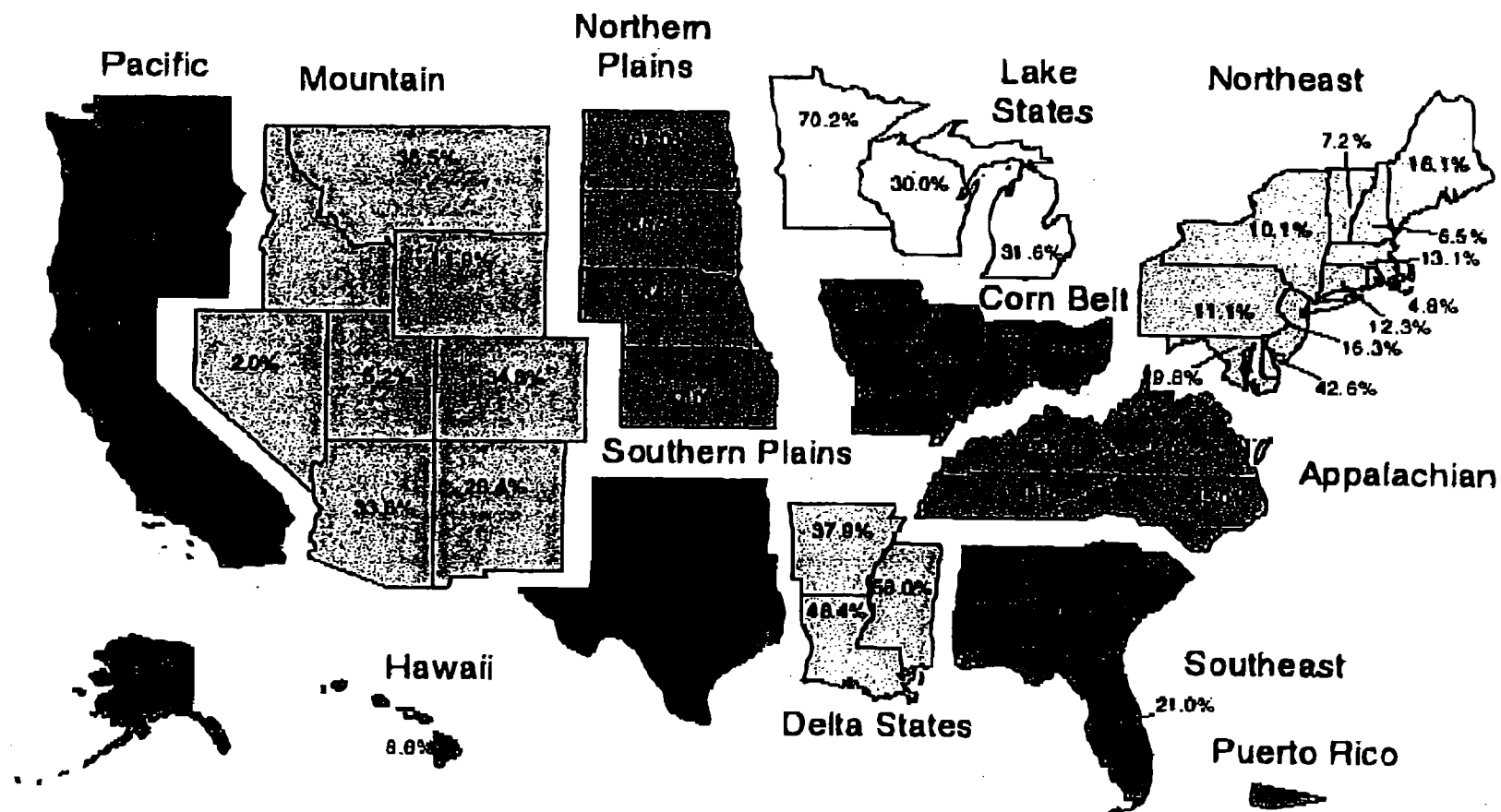
RELATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCERS BUYING CROP INSURANCE



Note: The percentage is greater than 100% in some cases because a farm may have more than one individual with an insurable interest. The data also include other producers (livestock) which FCIC does not presently serve. These data help tell us where we need to focus for future growth.

SSN and EIN number provided by RMA, R&O, KC
Total number of farms from 1997 Census of Agriculture

PERCENT OF FARM ACRES INSURED



DOES NOT EXCLUDE ACREAGE WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE (LIVESTOCK).

1997 Census of Agriculture
1997 RMA Insured Acres

Talking Points Regarding Crop Insurance Reform and the Agricultural Assistance

Crop Insurance - Title I

(Final Version
of Bill)

In a recent speech Secretary Glickman said, "*Congress is about to pass a crop insurance reform bill that codifies the very principles that we've been advocating for some time. That means making crop insurance more affordable, by providing premium discounts on buy-up coverage. It means a more accessible and inclusive system, with the authorization of a pilot livestock insurance program and improved coverage of specialty crops. It also means addressing multi-year losses and expanding risk management education and outreach efforts. It was USDA that got this ball rolling, with the appointment two years ago of a blue-ribbon panel of farmers, academics and policy experts who began putting together a reform package.*"

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (2000 Act) takes important steps for the agriculture industry which are consistent with Administration proposals advocated over the past 2 years. The 2000 Act:

- Makes crop insurance more affordable and useful to producers through increased subsidies for buy-up coverage and provides increased Federal backing for revenue products.
- Addresses multi-year losses and their effect on insurance coverages by permitting producers to adjust certain actual yields to improve insurable yields.
- Authorizes a pilot program for livestock options.
- Establishes an important financial commitment to crop insurance expansion, research and development, and education and outreach, which are key to specialty crop growers and states with traditionally low levels of crop insurance participation.
- Improves program integrity by providing stiff penalties for program abuse and limiting certain practices such as receiving more than one indemnity on the same acreage in areas that are not traditionally double cropped.
- Requires the Risk Management Agency and the Farm Service Agency to reconcile data for producers to ensure consistent reporting of production and losses for the purposes of USDA program participation.
- Improves the non-insured crop disaster assistance program (NAP).

Concerns -

- Implementation funding is considerably lower than requested as necessary, \$23 million as opposed to the \$110.6 million requested to timely and effectively execute the 2000 Act.
- Certain provisions are complex given expectations for rapid implementation.

- Removed authorization for the Risk Management Agency to be the program developer of last resort.

Agricultural Assistance - Title II

- While the relief attached to the crop insurance legislation will help farmers, we are concerned that Congress will distribute the money using the same AMTA formula that guided the emergency bills of the last two years.
- Specifically, AMTA bonus payments fail to target the crops and the producers in greatest need.
- The AMTA approach fails to consider the varying degree of market weakness across commodities, and fails to take into account exactly which farmers are producing which crops.
- The Congressional plan disproportionately benefits the largest -- and usually most prosperous -- farmers. It makes little sense, and it will work to weaken public support for adequate funding and a farm safety net in the future.
- Instead of paying farmers according to their current situation, this formula would take into account pre-1996 planting decisions and program yields based on data established in the early 1980's.
- Under this approach, a producer can be paid on planted acreage of wheat five years ago, even though he no longer grows wheat. In some cases, they will get paid even though they no longer grow any crop. It's a haphazard system that produces gross inequities.
- Furthermore, even with the best possible method of distribution, ad hoc, stop-gap, quick-fix emergency assistance is not the most effective or efficient way to help struggling farmers.
- This will be the third consecutive year of emergency assistance, and while previous payments have helped provide the cash flow to help farmers get through the year, they have done little to ensure the long-term stability and competitiveness of the American family farm.
- The bleeding continues, and we're getting ready to apply yet another very expensive tourniquet...when the situation actually calls for a blood transfusion.

Concerns -

- Farm Service Agency was not provided additional funding to administer these provisions.

America's farmers are the lifeblood of our land, or, as President Franklin Roosevelt put it, "the source from which the reservoirs of our nation's strength are constantly renewed." We must strengthen and support our farms and our farm families, just as they have sustained us throughout our history. Thank you.

#

Final 10/23/99 10am
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ACTUALITY FOR AGRICULTURE BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
October 22, 1999**

Today, I am signing into law the agriculture appropriations bill. This legislation provides critical funding for the Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration programs – including basic farm support programs, WIC, food safety efforts, and other measures to protect and support rural communities.

It also provides emergency funds to assist our nation's farmers and ranchers who are suffering the second year in a row of plummeting crop prices and, for many, record livestock losses from severe drought and flooding.

Let me say that I am disappointed that Congress did not come through with more assistance for farmers and ranchers who have suffered this year. This summer's drought, Hurricane Floyd, and other natural disasters have inflicted billions of dollars in agricultural damage. We need to do more to help those farmers who have incurred these losses through no fault of their own.

Congress has also not responded effectively to the crises facing many farms because of the sustained low prices of most commodities. This is the second year in a row that substantial federal assistance has been needed above and beyond our regular farm programs. While these additional funds have been absolutely critical, the very fact that we've needed them points out the underlying flaws in the 1996 Farm Bill.

For all its positive features, that bill simply did not do enough to ~~help our farmers and ranchers cope in this crisis~~. It does not give the USDA the tools it needs to help farmers and ranchers thrive in the short and long terms. It does not direct payments to where they're most needed. And it is providing payments to those who aren't even farming anymore. The bottom line is this: we need to revise, revamp, and improve the 1996 Farm Bill. It is not providing the adequate support that our farmers need to prosper.

 Joshua

So once again, I urge Congress to work to fix the Farm Bill – permanently – so American farmers can have an adequate safety net. Just as the Vice President and I have worked hard to reinvent government, we must take the necessary steps to rewrite this flawed legislation. The men and women who work every day to give us the world's most affordable and abundant food supply deserve nothing less.

This is not a perfect piece of legislation. But I am signing it because our farmers are facing a true emergency. Their livelihoods – and, in some cases, their very survival – depend upon getting this bill signed and assistance delivered now.

Final 03/17/00 10am
Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ACTUALITY FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY
THE WHITE HOUSE
March 17, 2000**

Today, as we celebrate National Agriculture Day, we honor the men and women who give us the world's most affordable and abundant food supply -- America's talented farmers and ranchers. They are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our land. Over the last few years, low commodity prices, weak global markets, droughts, and other natural disasters have inflicted billions of dollars in agricultural damage. We need to create new opportunities for our farmers and ranchers -- both at home and abroad. And we must revise, revamp and improve the 1996 Farm Bill -- to build a safety net that protects them during difficult times. That is the best way to celebrate farmers and ranchers, and to help make sure they share in our nation's bounty.

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Draft 5/16/00 2pm
Gottheimer

CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN PODESTA
REMARKS TO FARM BUREAU AND FARMLAND INDUSTRIES FARMERS
THE WHITE HOUSE
May 16, 2000

Ack: Thank you Bob for your kind introduction. I would also like to thank the American Farm Bureau for organizing this event, the Agriculture Coalition for their work and support on this issue, and Secretary Glickman and Governor Schafer for speaking to you today.

From the American Farm Bureau Federation ... to the American Seed Trade Association, your organizations make one thing clear: America's farmers are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our land. That's why I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to address the issue on the minds of farmers around our country, and on many of us here in Washington -- China's entry into the WTO. It's a decision that will affect the lives of millions of family farmers around our country.

There is no more pressing issue on the President's agenda -- and on the agenda of America's farmers -- than this agreement. And there is no other sector in our country that is going to benefit more from this vote. A fair and open global trading system offers US agriculture the best hopes for a prosperous future. Your presence here today reminds us that the decisions made in Washington deeply impact the lives of real American's across the country. Some people believe that trade only impacts the bottom line of big corporate farms. The fact is that increased exports lead to higher commodity prices and small farmers are equally if not more dependent on higher prices for their income.

Today one out of every three acres of America's farms is dedicated to exports. To farmers, exports mean income, jobs and a reduced risk for American agriculture. With exports accounting for an estimated 30 percent of gross cash receipts, it's not surprising then, that America's farmers are twice as reliant on foreign trade as the US economy as a whole.

No nation offers a greater potential consumer base for American business and agriculture than China. Last quarter, its economy grew at a rate of 8.1 percent, and has grown more than 9 percent annually since 1994. Incomes are increasing. The Chinese middle class is expanding. Private enterprise is taking root. As the world's most populous nation, China is in the midst of gradual, but far-reaching economic reform.

Additionally, China has already taken steps to prepare for their entrance into the rules-based WTO in the coming months. China is already reducing domestic procurement prices, discouraging farmers from over-planting. And these steps are working. The World Board reported on Friday that China's wheat acreage will decline by 5% for the new 2000 crop -- the lowest level of planted area since 1974. And as a result, Chinese wheat imports are projected to increase by 1.7 million tons in the next season, to more than 2.4 million tons. This will give our farmers an opportunity to compete for these additional sales. Similarly, China's production of

GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

GOVERNOR GLENDENING APPOINTS BARNES TO GROWTH COMMISSION

Former Congressman Helped Lay Foundation for Smart Growth Policy

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 8, 1999) – Acting to further expand Maryland's national leadership in Smart Growth planning and development, Governor Parris N. Glendening has appointed former Congressman Michael D. Barnes as chairman of the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Commission. The 17-member commission advises the Governor, General Assembly, and the Maryland Office of Planning on growth and development policy. Mr. Barnes will serve a four-year term from June 1, 1998, succeeding George T. Marcou as an at-large member.

"Mike Barnes once again is stepping forward to serve the citizens of Maryland in a vital capacity that impacts directly on our quality of life and environment," said Governor Glendening. "We are extremely pleased to have someone with Mike's expertise chair this important commission. His tireless leadership in shaping the future of our State will benefit generations to come."

Mr. Barnes, who represented Maryland's eighth district in Congress from 1979 to 1987, is a partner in the Washington D.C. law firm of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. He is chairman of the board of the Center for National Policy, a public policy "think tank" on national and international issues and he co-chairs the U.S. - Panama Business Council, which promotes increased trade and economic development between the two countries.

"We are truly fortunate that Mike Barnes has accepted this appointment and will continue building on his remarkable record of public service to Maryland," said State Senator Ida G. Ruben, of Silver Spring. "I can think of no individual better qualified than Mike to lead the Growth Commission at this critical time."

Earlier this decade, Mr. Barnes chaired the Maryland Commission on Growth in the Chesapeake Bay Region. The efforts of this commission led to passage by the General Assembly of the Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act in 1992, which created the commission to which Mr. Barnes is now being appointed.. The work of the Growth Commission, together with locally-adopted comprehensive plans, laid the groundwork for Governor Glendening's Smart Growth initiative to control suburban sprawl.

Mr. Barnes also served on the Maryland Public Service Commission and as vice-chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission. "Mike Barnes is an outstanding choice to lead the State Growth Commission at a time when we are moving forward with Smart Growth," said State Senator Chris Van Hollen, Jr. of Montgomery County. "His broad experience in urban and regional planning and economic development will be a tremendous asset to the commission as it deals with the numerous challenges of managing our State's growth and development in the 21st century."

In addition to advising the Governor, General Assembly, and the Maryland Office of Planning, the commission fosters public awareness and understanding of the objectives and functions of State and local planning. Through its subcommittees on Environment and Economic Development, Interjurisdictional Coordination, and Planning Techniques, the commission plays a major role in preserving and protecting Maryland's environment, rural resources and communities, while supporting continued economic development.

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CONTACT:

Ray Feldmann

Michelle Byrnie

Governor's Press Office

410-974-2316

TTY: 410-333-3098

Subject: DRAFT -- Agriculture Bill Signing Actuality. Comments to Gottheimer by 9:30am x62554.

Date: Thu, 21 Oct 1999 20:33:29 -0400

From: Joshua_S_Gottheimer@who.eop.gov

To: John_Podesta@who.eop.gov, Michele_Ballantyne@who.eop.gov,
Sally_Katzen@omb.eop.gov, Linda_Ricci@omb.eop.gov,
Loretta_M_Ucelli@who.eop.gov, Lindsay_R_Drewel@who.eop.gov,
Fern_Mechlowitz@who.eop.gov, Scott_Hynes@who.eop.gov,
Melissa_G_Green@opd.eop.gov, Patrick_M_Dorton@opd.eop.gov,
Jason_Furman@opd.eop.gov, Karen_Tramontano@who.eop.gov,
Carolyn_T_Wu@who.eop.gov, Joel_Johnson@who.eop.gov,
Douglas_B_Sosnik@who.eop.gov, Steve_Ricchetti@who.eop.gov,
Terry_Edmonds@who.eop.gov, aedmonds1@home.com, gottheim@aol.com,
Joseph_P_Lockhart@who.eop.gov, Richard_L_Siewert@who.eop.gov,
Jacob_J_Lew@omb.eop.gov, Stephanie_A_Cutter@who.eop.gov,
Thomas_D_Janenda@who.eop.gov, Jennifer_M_Palmieri@who.eop.gov,
Maria_Echaveste@who.eop.gov

Draft 10/13/99 8:30pm
Josh Gottheimer

JK- AGRIC 10/22

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ACTUALITY FOR AGRICULTURE BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
October 22, 1999

Today, I am signing into law the agriculture appropriations bill. This legislation provides critical funding for the Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration programs ? including WIC, food safety programs, and other measures to protect and support rural communities.

It also provides emergency funds to assist our nation's farmers and ranchers who are suffering the second year in a row of plummeting crop prices and, for many, record livestock losses from severe drought and flooding.

This is not a perfect piece of legislation. But I am signing it because our farmers are facing a true emergency. Their livelihoods ? and, in some cases, their very survival ? depend upon getting this bill signed and assistance delivered now.

Let me say that I am disappointed that Congress did not come through with more assistance for farmers and ranchers who have suffered this year at the hand of Mother Nature. This summer's drought, Hurricane Floyd, and other natural disasters have inflicted billions of dollars in agricultural damage. We need to do more to help those farmers who have incurred these losses by no fault of their own.

This is the second year in a row that substantial federal assistance has been needed above and beyond our regular farm programs. While these emergency bills have been absolutely critical, the very fact that we've needed them points out the underlying flaws in farm policy.

Any farmer can tell you that a single rainstorm doesn't end a drought. And individual measures aren't enough to build a safety net that protects farmers year in and year out. For all its positive features, the 1996 Farm Bill simply does not do enough to help our farmers and ranchers cope in this crisis. It does not give the USDA the tools it needs to help farmers

and ranchers thrive in the long term. And it does not allocate payments as efficiently as it should. The bottom line is this: we need to revise, revamp, and improve the 1996 Farm Bill. It is not providing the adequate support that our farmers need to prosper.

renewed

So once again, I urge Congress to work with our Administration to fix the Farm Bill ? permanently ? so American farmers can have an adequate safety net. Just as the Vice President and I have worked hard to reinvent government, we must take the necessary action to ~~update~~ this outdated legislation. The men and women who work every day to give us the world?s most affordable and abundant food supply deserve nothing less. ~~They need policies that work: ones that offer the freedom to grow, prosper and operate competitively and profitably in our strong economy.~~

America?s farmers are the lifeblood of our land, or, as President Franklin Roosevelt put it, ?the source from which the reservoirs of our nation?s strength are constantly renewed.? We must strengthen and support our farms and our farm families, just as they have sustained us throughout our history. Thank you.

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