

02/05/2003 Moran Leads Push for Drought Assistance

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40 Members Join Moran in Requesting Disaster Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran is leading an effort of nearly 40 Members of Congress to support drought assistance funding as Congress negotiates a final spending bill. The group has joined Moran in asking Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL) to include disaster relief in the final version of the appropriations bill. In January, Moran and Congressman Tom Osborne (R-NE) introduced legislation that would provide drought assistance to crop and livestock producers in either 2001 or 2002.

"Drought, floods, hail and other natural disasters have been widespread across the United States over the past several years," Moran and the coalition told Speaker Hastert. "Many states are suffering from extreme drought conditions, and over 80 percent of counties in our country have been declared disaster areas. Assistance must be delivered as soon as possible."

Joining Congressman Moran in urging Speaker Hastert to support drought assistance were 39 other members of Congress who represent areas that have felt the effects of drought.

According to the Kansas Farm Management Association, net farm income for 2002 will average around 10,000. Experts estimate that the Kansas agriculture economy lost nearly \$1.4 billion due to drought in 2002.

A Conference Committee with representatives from both the Senate and House has recently begun meeting to approve the final spending agreement for the 2003 fiscal year.

"We ask that you give strong consideration to assistance that is critical to the survival of America's farm families," Moran said. "We look forward to working with you to get much-needed relief to producers as soon as possible."

Moran is the chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

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