

9/11/2004 Moran: Disaster Legislation Needed Now For Struggling Farmers and Ranchers

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Spearheads Bipartisan Effort for Assistance

HUTCHINSON - Congressman Jerry Moran today called on Congress to include disaster relief assistance to farmers and ranchers as part of legislation to assist victims of recent hurricanes in Florida.

"Many farmers and ranchers from across Kansas have been hit extremely hard this year," Moran said. "Regardless of the weather conditions, be it drought, flooding or hurricanes, producers have sustained severe economic losses from this year's disasters and need help. Disaster legislation is needed to address the hardships that agricultural producers in Kansas have faced."

This week, Moran, along with Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and Rep. Tom Osborne (R-NE), spearheaded a bipartisan effort to urge House Appropriations Chairman Bill Young (R-FL) and Ranking Member David Obey (D-WI) to include disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers as part of future legislation to assist Florida hurricane victims.

In speaking to the annual Kansas Farm Bureau Leadership Breakfast on Saturday morning, at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Moran said, "despite efforts to improve the federal crop insurance program, crop insurance will not cover fully the losses experienced by farmers and ranchers across the nation."

Precise numbers on the losses that agriculture producers in Kansas have faced are still being compiled, but estimates place the damage well into the millions of dollars.

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