

## 12/02/2004 Chairman Jerry Moran's Statement on USDA Secretary Nominee

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HAYS - Congressman Jerry Moran, Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, today issued the following statement on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) announcement of Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns as the next Secretary.

"I look forward to working with Governor Johanns as the next Secretary of Agriculture and welcome him to the job. As our neighbor to the north and someone who grew up on a dairy farm, Johanns has a good understanding of production agriculture and will bring a common sense, Midwest approach to his leadership at the USDA. There are many challenges facing our agriculture community, including keeping our food supply safe and ensuring that American commodities have a level playing field on the international stage. I believe that Governor Johanns understands these challenges, and I will work with him to address them.

It is important that the Secretary of Agriculture have the President's ear, and I believe that Governor Johanns and President Bush have a good relationship. Governor Johanns will also bring a unique understanding of the legislative process from his time as Governor of Nebraska, which will be critical as we begin work on the new farm bill. I will work with Johanns to ensure that the voices of our farmers are heard and that they remain our focus throughout this process."

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