

4/24/2007 Moran Reacts to FSA Office Restructuring Plan

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Believes any closings should be postponed until after the 2007 Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today commented on the Kansas Farm Service Agency's (FSA) final office restructuring proposal released Monday evening.

"I continue to oppose the closing of any local FSA office in Kansas. However, I appreciate that FSA listened to the voices of local residents and modified its final plan to better reflect the needs of Kansas farmers and ranchers. I am pleased for the farmers and ranchers of Barber, Gove, and Morton Counties"

Moran also applauded local communities for their efforts to bring about substantive changes in the original FSA proposal.

"Credit should be given to the community members in the affected counties who came forward with their concerns and shared ideas to improve the original restructuring plan," Moran said. "I believe much of the change in the final FSA plan can be attributed to their efforts."

The original FSA office restructuring plan called for the closing of 11 offices across Kansas, seven of which were in the First Congressional District. The final plan reduces that number to eight offices statewide and four offices in the First Congressional District. Under the initial FSA proposal, offices in Morton, Gove, Comanche, Barber, Geary, Chase, Wabaunsee, Elk, Woodson, Leavenworth and Johnson Counties were slated to be closed. The final plan, however, would close offices in Comanche, Geary, Chase, Wabaunsee, Elk, Woodson, Leavenworth and Johnson Counties.

"I will continue to work with Kansans to convince USDA officials in Washington, DC to pursue additional changes to the restructuring plan. From the very beginning I have asked that no closings occur until completion of the new farm bill."

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

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