



July 27, 2007 – Volume 3, Issue 26  
*Special Edition: 2007 Farm Bill*

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Last night, the U.S. House of Representatives began consideration of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007. Earlier in the week, I voiced support for the bipartisan Farm Bill that passed through the Agriculture Committee without any of the rumored tax increases or anti-business provisions that were injected into the bill. The day before the Farm Bill was to be taken up by the full House, Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee learned that a tax increase on companies with U.S. subsidiaries had been inserted into the bill without their knowledge or consideration, as well as other anti-business provisions.

Today is a momentous day here in Congress. I have voted against the single most important piece of legislation that agriculture producers in District 11 find important. When I came to Congress, I was honored to sit on the Agriculture Committee and to have the opportunity to work on the 2007 Farm Bill. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that the Democrats would so poison a bill that is of such importance to agriculture producers across the nation that I could not support it. For the past eighteen months, I have worked with my Democratic colleagues to craft a bipartisan bill that we could be proud of. Last week, the bill passed out of committee with hard work from both sides. We thought we left the committee with a great bipartisan bill; a bill that would have Democrats and Republicans for it and perhaps some against it, but nevertheless, a bipartisan bill. We were assured at every turn that there would not be a tax increase in the bill. I worked diligently as a member of the bipartisan whip team working to increase bipartisan support for the bill, until we were told that a \$4 billion tax increase would be included, breaking the promises previously made. All of the good bipartisan work accomplished by the committee has been squandered by the Democratic leadership in a way that will strip bipartisan support from this bill. You can [click here](#) to watch some of the debate on the House Floor.

I want to make it clear that I support the Farm Bill as it came out of committee. I do not, however, support the non-agriculture approved tax increase that has been disgracefully attached to this legislation. This bill is pro-producer and will help the hungry around the world, but it is anti-business and anti-manufacturing jobs. The tax increases included in this bill will jeopardize millions of manufacturing American jobs by raising taxes on companies that do business in the U. S. and could possibly abrogate treaties with other nations, leading to significant consequences for U.S. companies with operations in other countries. We sadly have gone from a bill that should have passed with broad bipartisan support to one that will not enjoy that support. It is sad that partisanship has trumped rural America and has inevitably destroyed bipartisan support for the Farm Bill.

[Click here](#) to read more about the provisions included in the bill that forced me to vote against the 2007 Farm Bill.

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The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at [www.house.gov/conaway](http://www.house.gov/conaway) or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at [www.conawayblog.com](http://www.conawayblog.com)!

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