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# AMENDMENT BY SENATORS CONRAD AND GRASSLEY
# SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FAIR MARKETS FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Sec.___. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FAIR MARKETS FOR AMERICAN FARMERS.

(a) FINDINGS — The Senate finds that —

(1) United States agricultural producers are the most efficient and competitive in the world;

(2) United States agricultural producers are at a competitive disadvantage in the world market because the European Union outspends the United States (on a dollar/acre basis) by a ratio of 10:1 on domestic support and by a ratio of 60:1 on export subsidies;

(3) the support the European Union gives their producers results in more prosperous rural communities in Europe than in the United States;

(4) the European Union blocked consensus at the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Seattle because Europe does not want to surrender its current advantage in world markets;

(5) despite the competitiveness of American farmers, the European advantage has led to a declining U.S. share of the world market for agricultural products;

(6) the United States Department of Agriculture reports that U.S. export growth has lagged behind that of our major competitors, resulting in a loss of U.S. market share, from 24 percent in 1981 to its current level of 18 percent;

(7) the United States Department of Agriculture also reports that U.S. market share of global agricultural trade has eroded steadily over the past two decades, which could culminate in the United States losing out to the European Union as the world's top agricultural exporter sometime in 2000;

(8) prices of agricultural commodities in the United States are at 50 year lows in real terms, creating a serious economic crisis in rural America; and

(9) fundamental fairness requires that the playing field be leveled so that U.S. farmers are no longer at a competitive disadvantage.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE — It is the Sense of the Senate that —

(1) the United States should take steps to increase support for American farmers in order to level the playing field for United States agricultural producers and increase the leverage of the United States in World Trade Organization negotiations on agriculture as long as such support is not trade distorting, and does not otherwise exceed or impair existing Uruguay Round obligations; and

(2) such actions should improve United States farm income and restore the prosperity of rural communities.

VOTE ON:

DATE:

| YEA | | NAY |
|---|---|---|
| | by voice vote | |
| | GRASSLEY | |
| | NICKLES | |
| | GRAMM | |
| | BOND | |
| | GORTON | |
| | GREGG | |
| | MS SNOWE | |
| | ABRAHAM | |
| | FRIST | |
| | GRAMS | |
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| | LAUTENBERG | |
| | HOLLINGS | |
| | CONRAD | |
| | SARBANES | |
| | Mrs BOXER | |
| | Mrs MURRAY | |
| | WYDEN | |
| | FEINGOLD | |
| | JOHNSON | |
| | DURBIN | |
| | | |
| | CHAIRMAN | |