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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2008

Congress Overrides Bush Farm Bill Veto

Congress has voted to override President George Bush's veto of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The House passed the override 306 to 110 last night. The Senate vote was 82 to 13 today. The vote represents only the second veto override of Bush's almost eight-year presidency.

"The fact that this bill gained such overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle really speaks to the quality of this legislation," said NSP President Dale Murden. "It is not a perfect bill, but this legislation includes solid policy to protect and support America's farmers, allowing them to continue to provide the safest and most reliable food supply in the world."

Earlier today, the House passed a motion designed to fix a clerical error that omitted the Trade Title from the bill. Congress will pass that portion of the bill at a future date. The House passed the Farm Bill Conference Report last week by a margin of 318 to 106. The Senate passed the Conference Report a day later 81 to 15. Both chambers passed their original versions of the bill in 2007.

"NSP would like to thank Congressman Randy Neugebauer and Congressman Mike Conaway for their efforts in securing the vote necessary to override this veto, and Congresswoman Nancy Boyda for keeping the sorghum safety net in play throughout the conference committee debate," said NSP CEO Tim Lust. "Strong leadership pulled this bill up by the bootstraps several times when it looked like stakeholders would never reach an agreement, and that leadership paid off today. Farmers now have the stability they need to manage their businesses effectively in 2008."

NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers. The organization works to ensure the profitability of sorghum production coast to coast through legislative representation, market development, research and education. To learn more about NSP, visit www.sorghumgrowers.com.