

SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

May 22, 2008

Congress Overrides Presidential 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."

"It's also nice that when push came to shove, farm policy remained overwhelmingly bipartisan, as it always should be," Murden added.

NSP staff are busy analyzing this new law and will provide detailed analysis as it relates to sorghum producers within the next week.

They Did *What!*?: Congressional Slip-Up Omits Trade Title from Farm Bill

In an unexpected twist, a clerical error delayed the so-close-you-could-taste-it Farm Bill again late yesterday afternoon. President Bush vetoed the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 on Wednesday as expected. The House and Senate then prepared to override the veto, having secured veto-proof vote margins when the conference report passed both chambers last week. However, just after the House voted to override the President's veto 316 to 108, someone noticed that the Trade Title had been omitted from the bill prior to delivery to the President. A floor debate ensued over whether or not Congress can override what the President has not technically vetoed. In the end, the Senate voted 82 to 13 to override the bill as vetoed and the House crafted another version of the bill, including the Trade Title, which will move back through the process and will supersede today's bill after it is (presumably) vetoed and overridden sometime in the next few weeks.

CALL TO ACTION: Texas Governor's Request for RFS Waiver Open for Comment in Federal Register

On April 25, Texas Governor Rick Perry sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting a waiver of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), citing rising feed and fuel prices as justification for lowering ethanol use mandates. The EPA has published notice of receipt of the request in the Federal Register and the notice is open for comments.

Despite the rampant negative press that ethanol is receiving right now and despite well-funded attempts to scapegoat ethanol for higher food prices and hunger around the world, numerous studies have concluded that repealing the RFS waiver will not, in fact, lead to lower food prices. An Iowa State University study even concluded that fuel would be 29 to 40 cents more expensive if ethanol were not blended into the fuel supply. Furthermore, the on-farm cost share of each dollar spent at the grocery store on food is less than 20 cents, total.

In order to preserve ethanol mandates and contribute to the maintenance and growth of the renewable fuels industry, *it is vital that farmers comment in favor of biofuels in the Federal Register*. Comments must be received by June 23, 2008 and should preferably be faxed or submitted electronically. Comments sent via postal mail may be delayed by Capitol Hill mail screening. The following methods may be used to submit comments:

- **Web:** <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=09000064805f83d2>
Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- **E-mail:** a-and-r-docket@epa.gov.
- **Fax:** (202) 566-1741.
- **Mail:** Air and Radiation Docket, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0380, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Please include a total of two copies.
- **Hand Delivery:** EPA Docket Center, Public Reading Room, EPA West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Comments must include the following identification: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0380. Extensive directions including privacy information are available for download at www.sorghumgrowers.com. For ideas or further information, please call the NSP office at (800) 658-9808.

About Sorghum Notes

SORGHUM Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and works to ensure the profitability of sorghum production through market development, research, education and legislative representation. Visit our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com. Write to us at National Sorghum Producers, 4201 N Interstate 27, Lubbock, TX 79403. To unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes, please reply to hannah@sorghumgrowers.com. Copy and paste "Unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes" into the subject line.

SORGHUM Notes is sponsored by:

Sorghum Partners, Inc.
P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350
Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305
Website: www.sorghum-partners.com
E-mail: information@sorghum-partners.com

Quote of the week:

"'Curiouser and curiouser!' cried Alice."
Alice, Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, Chapter 2
(seemed a fitting quote for the week's Farm Bill antics....)

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

Call NSP at (800) 658-9808 to learn more.