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July 27, 2007 - Farm Bill Passes House of Representatives

The House of Representatives passed their version of the farm bill this afternoon, 231-191. Despite enormous public outcry for reform and some modest increases for nutrition, conservation and specialty crop programs, the bill mostly keeps intact a food and farming system that has failed our country. Speaker Pelosi has said this farm bill "signals change and shows a new direction in our farm policy," but most of it seems like a lot of the same, with just enough improvement to get the votes needed to get out of the House. Community Food Projects is one of the many programs that fell through the cracks. Despite near heroic efforts from all of you and many of our California Representatives, CFP received no mandatory funding in the House Farm Bill.

- Detailed Chart of House Farm Bill Outcomes:
http://www.foodsecurity.org/california/FB_House_Chart.pdf

Half of California's Congressional Delegation Speaks Out for a Healthier Farm Bill.

26 members of California's Congressional delegation, lead by Reps. Hilda Solis & Barbara Lee, sent a letter to the House Agriculture Committee calling for a Farm Bill that increases access to fresh and healthy foods, supports family farms, promotes local food systems and protects our natural resources.

- Read the CA Congressional Sign on Letter:
<http://www.foodsecurity.org/california/FBDearColleagueLetter.pdf>
- Read the Press Release:
<http://www.foodsecurity.org/california/CaliforniaDelegationPR.pdf>
- Read what the media said about CA Congressional Actions:
http://www.mulchblog.com/2007/06/farm_bill_california_oxfamweig.php
<http://www.ethicurean.com/2007/06/21/digest-281/>
<http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=30262>

Nearly 70 organizations sent a letter to the House Agriculture Committee and California Senators urging for the Farm Bill funding to better support local sustainable food systems.

- Read the letter:
<http://www.foodsecurity.org/california/HouseOrgSignOnLetter.pdf>

Urban Mayors Adopt Resolution Urging Farm Bill Reform: The United States Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution urging for reform in the 2007 Farm Bill. Co-sponsors included mayor Gavin Newsom from San Francisco, Dan Furtado from Campbell, and Ronald Dellums from

Oakland. The resolution highlights needs of urban consumers to have access to fresh healthy foods.

- Read the Resolution:

http://www.foodsecurity.org/california/USCM_Resolution--final.pdf