(1ST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION)
ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1002 By: Pope (Clay)

A Resolution memorializing the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to take all actions to ensure that any change in the Loan Deficiency Payments Program are not made at expense of Oklahoma wheat farmers and to support all Oklahoma agricultural producers; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) Program was created for cotton and rice in 1985 and expanded to wheat, corn, soybeans and other crops in the early nineties; and

WHEREAS, technically a loan program, the LDP Program basically ensures that farmers receive at least a minimum crop price in order to pay off debts and to ensure lenders of a positive cash flow; and

WHEREAS, the LDP Program is triggered only when commodity prices fall to very low levels; and

WHEREAS, across America, crop prices have fallen so sharply that the LDP Program has become a lifeline for cash-strapped farmers; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture is planning to change the mechanism for calculating loan deficiency payments to a national average rate rather than a posted county rate; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma wheat farmers are concerned that such a recalculation may grant additional relief to corn and soybean growers in the upper midwest while at the same time harming southern plains wheat growers; and

WHEREAS, Congress seems to only respond to agriculture needs when agricultural economic hardships are felt by corn and soybean producers in the upper midwest rather than developing a workable, permanent solution to provide a safety net for all agricultural commodity growers; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to Oklahoma wheat farmers that any Congressional action taken to assist various producers in the agricultural crisis consider its impact on all agricultural producers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives memoralizes the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to:

1. Take all action to ensure that any change to the calculations in the LDP Program is not made at the expense of the Oklahoma wheat farmers; and

2. Strongly support any action to bolster and assist Oklahoma agricultural producers.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the President of the United States.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 16th day of June, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives