

111TH CONGRESS
VOTE RECORD ISSUES

1. H.R. 2454 – CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Passed June 26, 2009. The American Clean Energy and Security Act, better known as the Climate Change legislation, would place a mandatory cap on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, limiting those emissions to 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. Industry could buy emission allowances from the federal government and other regulated and non-regulated entities through a “cap and trade” program. Farm Bureau opposed H.R. 2454 based on analysis which it said would place U.S. farmers at a competitive disadvantage compared to foreign producers who would not face the resulting higher production costs. Analysis also said that provisions allowing farmers to sell credits for carbon sequestration would not generate enough income to make up for the decline in farm income due to higher production costs.

Farm Bureau urged a “no” vote.

2. H.R. 2868 – CHEMICAL FACILITY SECURITY

Passed November 6, 2009. The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009 gives the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the authority to mandate the use of “inherently safe technology” or IST. Farm Bureau said the IST requirement could jeopardize the availability of effective agricultural chemicals and fertilizers. The bill would also allow states to adopt more stringent chemical security restrictions than those in federal law. Finally the law would weaken protections against public disclosure of companies’ and farmers’ security plans by allowing private citizens and activist groups to sue in order to ensure the chemical facility standards are being enforced.

Farm Bureau urged a “no” vote.

3. H.R. 3962 – NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

Passed November 7, 2009. The Affordable Health Care for America Act would have created a new government-run insurance plan, also known as “the public option,” to compete with private insurance companies. The bill also required that all Americans have health insurance and that employers provide their employees an opportunity to enroll in an employer-sponsored health insurance plan or make contributions to a Health Insurance Exchange to contract with private insurers. In addition it banned health insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions and other provisions. Farm Bureau opposed the bill due to its employer’s mandate, saying that it only worsened the situation for people who were unable to afford coverage.

Farm Bureau urged a “no” vote.

4. H.R. 3590 – NATIONAL HEALTH CARE RECONCILIATION

Passed March 21, 2010. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was the reconciliation measure that ultimately became law. The legislation did not contain the “public option” but it did raise taxes and impose mandates.

Farm Bureau urged a “no” vote.

5. H.R. 4213 – TAX EXTENDERS

Passed Dec. 9, 2009. The Tax Extenders Act of 2009 extended for one year, several tax provisions that were beneficial to farmers that were scheduled to expire the end of 2009. The tax provisions included the \$1 per gallon blenders tax credit for biodiesel, the small agri-biodiesel producer credit of 10 cents per gallon, the tax credit for electricity from biomass, the five year depreciations from farm business machinery and equipment, and enhanced tax deductions for donated food and conservation easements.

Farm Bureau urged a “yes” vote.