



For Immediate Release
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SAC Urges President to Sign New Farm Bill into Law

Washington, D.C. May 16, 2008 – The Sustainable Agriculture Coalition welcomed the House and Senate’s passage of the new farm bill by overwhelming margins on Wednesday and Thursday of this week (318-106 in the House, 81-15 in the Senate). While recognizing its shortcomings, the Coalition endorsed the new farm bill and its improvements to working-lands conservation programs, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmer support, organic production and research, production contract reform, and local and regional food systems. The Coalition is now urging President Bush to re-consider his veto threat and sign the new farm bill into law.

Comment by Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director for the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition:

“The Coalition believes that even with its faults, the new farm bill is a significant improvement over current law and should therefore be signed into law by President Bush. Congress clearly exceeded the two-thirds majority of votes needed to override a Presidential veto. We urge the White House to recognize the overwhelming public support for the new farm bill, its important investments in land stewardship, nutrition, new farmers, and local and regional food systems, and sign the new bill into law so that farmers and consumers can begin to benefit from these new programs as soon as possible.”