



For Immediate Release
December 13, 2007

Contact: Ferd Hoefner
202-547-5754

COMMENT ON SENATE PAYMENT LIMITATION VOTE

Washington, D.C. December 13, 2007 – The Sustainable Agriculture Coalition’s Policy Director Ferd Hoefner offered these comments on the 56 to 43 vote in the Senate this morning in which a majority voted in favor of comprehensive farm program payment limitation reform:

“On behalf of the family farmers we represent, we thank the majority of the US Senate who voted for comprehensive payment reform by voting for the Dorgan-Grassley Amendment to the Farm Bill. Unfortunately, opponents of reform thwarted the will of the Senate by using procedural roadblocks to insist on a super majority of 60 votes to approve reform. The vote on Dorgan-Grassley was the last chance for reform in the new farm bill, as the House already approved its bill without reform. Sadly, the result means the US taxpayer will continue to be forced to bankroll mega farms to outbid family farms and new young farmers for land, leading to the subsidized, slow demise of family farming in this country.”

-- 30 --

The Sustainable Agriculture Coalition represents grassroots farm, rural, and conservation organizations from across the country that advocate for public policies supporting the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture, natural resources and rural communities.