

Sen. Johnny Isakson
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Dear Senator Isakson:

As a registered dietitian, I want to encourage the Senate to pass a Farm Bill that serves all Americans' interest in food and agriculture. Nutrition is an area that every American – not just farmers and the poorest of Americans who rely on food assistance – cares about. Farm Bill provisions not only affect the safety and quality of foods that people eat, they establish the direction of future food production. Getting the right mix of policies to encourage the production and marketing of healthful foods in a prosperous farm economy should be the goal in 2007.

The Food and Energy Security Act approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee takes a step forward in advancing nutrition by recognizing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as the threshold for federal food assistance and nutrition programs. I support this important principle and I believe provisions included in the nutrition title promoting incentives for healthy food choices and increasing access to fruits and vegetables will have a significant effect on the long term health of Americans.

I ask that you build on the work of the committee by supporting on the floor:

1. The inclusion of nutrition standards for competitive foods sold in schools. Nutrition standards for foods sold outside the school meal programs are woefully out-of-date. The current school food environment is undermining our federal investment in the school meal programs and nutrition education. Please support efforts to update these nutrition standards.
2. Efforts to achieve a better balance in farm and food policy. ADA has consistently urged that the 2007 Farm Bill provide American producers a safety net, yet do a better job of addressing other pressing needs such as domestic and international hunger, conservation and environmental protection.

Support of these efforts on the floor will result in a Farm Bill that will better serve all Americans' interests, including farmers and their customers.

Best Regards,