

Farm bill makes important investment in San Joaquin specialty crops, renewable energy

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Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) today supported a Farm bill that makes history.

The conference report on the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007, H.R. 2419, passed the House.

“This Farm bill invests in California’s priorities by ensuring that for the first time ever there are funds to support specialty crops.”

“The bill implements needed reforms to commodity and other payment programs cutting direct farm payments by 50 percent.”

This Farm bill guarantees a historic \$1.3 billion in funding for fruit and vegetable programs, which have traditionally been underfunded.

To encourage conservation efforts, the Farm bill boosts conservation programs that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and protect wildlife habitat.

Nearly three-fourths of the Farm Bill, an additional \$10.4 billion in new spending, goes to nutrition programs for children and the elderly.

Also, the Farm Bill invests \$1 billion in renewable energy, focusing on moving beyond corn-based ethanol to other sources.