

"If we can pass the STOCK Act and important veterans' legislation in a bipartisan manner, then House Leadership should let us vote on the Farm Bill," says Walz

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Walz released the following statement after House GOP leadership announced that they will not even bring the bipartisan five-year Farm Bill up for a vote and instead allow the current farm law to expire at the end of the month.

"Allowing the current farm law to expire on September 30 is what's wrong with Washington today. If we can pass the STOCK Act and important veterans' legislation in a bi-partisan manner, then there's no legitimate excuse the House Leadership can make for failing to get their chores done and pass the five-year bipartisan Farm Bill this month."

"Passing any bill requires good faith compromise. I've done that on the Farm Bill in the House Agriculture committee. I am absolutely appalled by how the extreme Tea Party wing of the House Republicans has gummed up the workings of the legislative process yet again and prevented compromise and progress."

"Make no mistake: the farm bill isn't just for farmers. It comes in the form of steady, dependable prices at the grocery store. It is relief for drought stricken farmers. The Farm Bill affects and gives certainty to everyone."

"This is especially true for rural America. In small towns across this country, local businesses depend on the farm economy to survive. When farmers do well, local businesses do well. Farmers spend their money on Main Street, buying new furniture and appliances, new equipment from their implement dealer, and food at local restaurants. Without a five-year Farm Bill, these small businesses will also suffer. House leadership should allow a vote on this bipartisan five-year bill before the law expires and give our folks certainty. Rural America—and the rest of the country— deserve better."

“I will not stop fighting to get the Farm Bill done.”

The House leadership canceled the October work session and sent Members of Congress home today for a seven-week recess without completing their job on the five-year bi-partisan Farm Bill.

The bipartisan five-year Farm Bill is ready to go. The bill passed out of the House Agriculture Committee with a strong bipartisan vote of 35-11 in late July and saves \$35 billion. But even with strong bipartisan support, House leadership stonewalled and has refused to allow a vote on the five-year bill by the full chamber. The current Farm Bill, passed in 2008, expires at the end of this month.

With House leadership canceling the October work session, Congress will have worked a total of eight days from August 4 – November 13.

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