

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON

AGRICULTURE RECORD AND OVERVIEW

Congresswoman Richardson supports agriculture. In California, agriculture is a \$36.6 billion industry and accounts for one in ten jobs. A significant volume of the exports leaving the Port of Long Beach and the Port of LA are related to agriculture.

During debate on H.R. 2112, the FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, Congresswoman Laura Richardson offered an amendment that would have restored an additional \$10 million to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). CSFP provides food assistance to low income seniors. Between 10 to 20 percent of the 52,000 seniors in California's 37th Congressional District rely on the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

The 37th Congressional District of California has the 9th highest rate of food hardship in the United States. Congresswoman Laura Richardson will continue to lead efforts in preventing cuts to critical food assistance programs such as WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

**CLR AGRICULTURE VOTE RECORD
KEY VOTES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY**

110th-112th CONGRESS

2007-PRESENT

UPDATED: JANUARY 2012

Date	Bill No.	Bill Title	CLR Vote	Outcome
Dec. 8, 2011	HR 1633	Limits Regulation of Farm Dust	Nay	Bill Passed - House (268 - 150)
Nov. 17, 2011	HR 2112	Appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, and the Food and Drug Administration	Yea	Conference Report Adopted - House (298 - 121)
Oct. 12, 2011	H.R. 3080	United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement	Nay	Bill Passed-House (278-151)
Oct 12, 2011	H.R. 3079	United States-Panama Free Trade Agreement	Nay	Bill Passed-House (300-129)
Oct 12, 2011	H.R. 3078	United States-Columbia Free Trade Agreement	Nay	Bill Passed-House (262-167)
July 13, 2011	H.R. 2018	Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act	Nay	Bill Passed-House (239-184)
June 16, 2011	H.R. 2112	Flake Amendment to prohibit the use of appropriated funds to make farm payments to anyone with adjusted gross	Yea	Failed- House (186-228)

		income (AGI) of more than \$250,000 per year.		
June 16, 2011	H.R. 2112	Blumenauer Amendment to H.R. 2112 that would have limited total farm payments to \$125,000 per person or entity, per year.	Nay	Failed- House (154-262)
June 16, 2011	H.R. 2112	Gibson Amendment to H.R. 2112 to provide \$6 million for the USDA-Rural Utilities Service's broadband loan program, the only congressionally appropriated program dedicated to rural broadband deployment.	Yea	Passed- House (221-198)
June 16, 2011	H.R. 2112	Kind Amendment to H.R. 2112 to prohibit any of the appropriated funds from being spent on payments to the Brazil Cotton Institute.	Yea	Passed- House (223-197)
April 7, 2011	H.R. 910	Energy Tax Prevention Act	Nay	Passed- House (255-172)
March 31, 2011	H.R. 872	Reducing Regulatory Burdens	Yea	Passed- House (292-130)
March 3,	H.R. 4	The	Yea	Passed- House

2011		Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayment Act		(314-112)
February 19, 2011	H.R. 1	Noem Amendment to prevent EPA from changing national air quality standards for coarse particulate matter (dust), which is prevalent on and around farms	Nay	Passed- House (255-168)
February 18, 2011	H.R. 1	Rooney Amendment to prohibit EPA from implementing water quality criteria and associated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting requirements in Florida.	Nay	Passed-House (237-189)
February 18, 2011	H.R. 1	Goodlatte Amendment to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to mandate Total Maximum Daily	Nay	Passed- House (230-195)

		Loads (pollution limits and associated permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act) on states.		
February 18, 2011	H.R. 1	Blumenauer Amendment to cap farm payments at \$250,000 per recipient.	Nay	Failed- House (185-241)
February 18, 2011	H.R. 1	Kind Amendment to stop payments to the Brazilian Research Institute.	Nay	Failed- House (183-246)
Dec. 21, 2010	HR 2751	FDA Food Safety Modernization Act	Yea	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (215 - 144)
Dec. 21, 2010	HR 3082	Continuing Appropriations	Yea	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (193 - 165)
June 24, 2010	H.R. 5175	DISCLOSE Act	Yea	Passed- House (219-206)
May 28, 2010	H.R. 4213	American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act	Yea	Passed- House (215-204)
Dec. 9, 2009	H.R. 4213	Tax Extenders Act	Yea	Passed- House (241-181)
Nov. 7, 2009	H.R. 3962	Affordable Health Care for America Act	Yea	Passed- House (220-215)
Nov. 6, 2009	H.R. 2868	Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act	Yea	Passed- House (230-193)
Oct. 7, 2009	HR 2997	Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,	Yea	Conference Report Adopted - House (263 - 162)

		and Related Agency Appropriations Fiscal Year 2009-2010		
June 26, 2009	H.R. 2454	American Clean Energy and Security Act	Yea	Passed- House (219-212)
June 18, 2008	HR 6124	Second Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (Farm Bill)	Yea	Veto Override Passed - House (317 - 109)
May 21, 2008	HR 2419	Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (Farm Bill)	Yea	Veto Override Passed - House (316 - 108)
May 14, 2008	HR 2419	Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (Farm Bill)	Yea	Conference Report Adopted - House (318 - 106)
April 10, 2008	H. Res. 1092	Waives the 90-day limit for Congress to vote on legislation to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.	Yea	Passed- House (224-195)
Feb. 27, 2008	H.R. 5351	Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act	Yea	Passed- House (236-182)
Dec. 18, 2007	H.R. 6	Energy Independence and Security Act	Yea	Passed- House (314-100)
Nov. 8, 2007	H.R. 3688	U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement	Nay	Passed- House (285-132)
Nov. 6, 2007	H.R. 1495	Override Presidential	Yea	Passed- House (361-54)

Veto of the Water Resources Bill				
July 12, 2007	SB 180	Collective Bargaining Representation for Agricultural Workers	Yea	Bill Passed - House (46 - 33)

RELEVANT CAUCUSES

CONGRESSIONAL RICE CAUCUS

The caucus is a platform to discuss government's role in addressing challenges facing the rice industry.

CLR is a Member

TOP AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU (www.fb.org)

The American Farm Bureau is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through our grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION (www.cbcf.com)

The California Farm Bureau Federation protects and promotes agriculture interests in California.

NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION (www.beefusa.org)

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association promotes and is the voice for the beef industry.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (www.nfu.org)

The National Farmers Union advocates for the economic and social well-being, and quality of life of family farmers, ranchers, fishermen and consumers and their communities through education, cooperation and legislation. NFU advocates sustainable production of food, fiber, feed and fuel.

MISSIONS AND GOALS FROM ORGANIZATIONS' WEBSITES

The American Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

In 1919, a small group of farmers from 30 states gathered in Chicago and founded the American Farm Bureau Federation. Their goal – speaking for themselves through their own national organization. Farm Bureau soon became the voice of agriculture at the national level.

“The purpose of Farm Bureau is to make the business of farming more profitable, and the community a better place to live. Farm Bureau should provide an organization in which members may secure the benefits of unified efforts in a way which could never be accomplished through individual effort.”

California Farm Bureau Federation

The California Farm Bureau Federation is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the state of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of **53 county Farm Bureaus** currently representing more than 74,000 agricultural, associate and collegiate members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources.

The policies and programs of Farm Bureau are developed from grassroots recommendations originating at the community and county Farm Bureau levels. From these recommendations, tentative policy resolutions are prepared and submitted to the CFBF House of Delegates for action at its annual meeting each December.

The House of Delegates is made up of representatives elected by members of the county Farm Bureaus. Resolutions on state matters become CFBF policy. Matters of national interest are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration. The

CFBF Board of Directors determines a program of activities based on action of the House of Delegates. That program is administered by CFBF officers and staff.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

NCBA's priorities are to:

1. Achieve a reduction in federal spending and the deficit;
2. Minimize direct federal involvement in agriculture;
3. Preserve the right of individual choice in the management of land, water and other resources. Livestock contracts should provide for the use of arbitration to settle any controversy only if, after the controversy arises, both parties consent in writing to use arbitration to settle the controversy;
4. Provide an opportunity to compete in foreign markets; and
5. Farm Policy which favors one producer or commodity over another will be opposed.

National Farmers Union

For more than 100 years Farmers Union has been the grassroots organization of of America's family farms and ranches. During its storied history, Farmers Union emerged as an influential organization that helped shape national policy, organized cooperative businesses that thrive today, delivered educational programs designed to build rural leaders, and provided farmers and ranchers with opportunities to be at the table. Today, Farmers Union continues to be the nation's premier farm organization dedicated to family farm agriculture, cooperative businesses, and rural communities.