

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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AG SECRETARY MADIGAN CONFIRMED

I AM PLEASED TO PROVIDE MY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN SUPPORTING ED MADIGAN AS THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINEE TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. HAVING KNOWN AND WORKED WITH ED FOR MANY YEARS, I KNOW THE QUALIFICATIONS THAT HE BRINGS TO THE JOB. HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUT HIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY TO WORK AS A PRAGMATIC AND HARD-WORKING LEADER FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. AND FROM LISTENING TO THE COMMENTS MADE BY MY COLLEAGUES WHILE ED WAS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, THERE IS WIDESPREAD APPRECIATION OF HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND CAPABILITIES.

I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH ED ON MANY PIECES OF LEGISLATION AND ON SEVERAL FARM BILLS. HE HAS AN UNBLEMISHED REPUTATION FOR KNOWING THE ISSUES, LISTENING, AND WORKING WITH CONFLICTING PARTIES IN ORDER TO FIND A WORKABLE COMPROMISE. I'M SURE THOSE ATTRIBUTES WILL COME INTO PLAY AS THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS WORK TOGETHER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1990 FARM BILL, THE CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT OF TARIFFS AND TRADE, AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES.

REPRESENTING AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT IN EAST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS, ED HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME VOICE FOR AGRICULTURE AS THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER ON THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. THOUGH NOT A FARMER BY TRADE, AS MANY PAST SECRETARIES HAVE BEEN, THERE CAN BE NO ARGUING THAT HE KNOWS WHAT AGRICULTURE DOES AND DOESN'T NEED AS MUCH AS ANYONE. THE VERY REAL NEEDS OF AMERICAN FARMERS, RURAL COMMUNITIES, AND RURAL LIVES HAVE LONG BEEN A PRIORITY TO ED, AND HE ALSO RECOGNIZES THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING GLOBAL ECONOMY. THESE IDEALS, AND THE RECOGNITION THAT FISCAL CONSTRAINTS WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SHAPING THE DIRECTION OF FUTURE POLICIES, MAKE ED A NATURAL CHOICE FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

I WOULD CLOSE BY URGING MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN ME, AND THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, IN SUPPORTING ED AS THE NEXT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. HE WILL PROVIDE INVALUABLE LEADERSHIP AND INSIGHT FOR AGRICULTURE DURING HIS TENURE, AND I COMMEND PRESIDENT BUSH FOR SELECTING SUCH A DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE FOR THE NOMINATION.

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