



**PO Box 1165
Great Falls, MT 59403
ph 406.761.4596
fx 406.761.4606
email: mgga@mgga.org**

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For additional information, contact:
Lyle Benjamin: 406-539-5953; skookumchuck.ag.lyle@gmail.com
Lola Raska: 406-761-4596; lraska@mgga.org

MGGA Pleased with Congressional Passage of New Farm Bill

Great Falls – The Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) applauds the Senate and House of Representatives for their favorable and bipartisan votes on the 2018 Farm Bill conference report, and urges President Trump to sign the bill into law as quickly as possible.

MGGA President Lyle Benjamin said, “I am very pleased to see Congress pass an effective farm bill. It will provide critical stability to our members, strongly support wheat and barley research, strengthen conservation efforts, and provide several key fixes for Montana issues. This is a great cross-aisle piece of legislation.”

The new bill preserves existing programs and makes several improvements in response to concerns voiced by Montana grain producers. In addition to maintaining a strong crop insurance title, producers will be given the opportunity to elect commodity program participation in four out of the five years of the new bill. Other improvements include the use of crop insurance data for determining county yields, preservation of historical base acres, an opportunity to update program yields and an increase in marketing loan rates while upholding previous payment limitations and program eligibility caps.

Conservation programs will be reorganized and expanded, more money is made available for ownership and operating loans for beginning farmers, funding for our foreign trade development programs is renewed, and the production of industrial hemp will be legalized nationwide.

Benjamin added, “We would especially like to thank Senator Tester, Senator Daines and Congressman Gianforte, along with their staff, for their help in crafting this important piece of legislation and for supporting final passage. The farm bill helps to provide the certainty our growers need to weather difficult economic times and we appreciate their strong support of our industry.”

The Montana Grain Growers Association is the primary trade organization representing Montana wheat and barley producers who, by combining their strengths, voices, and ideas, are working to insure a better future for themselves, their industry and the consumer.

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