

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

SUPPORT EQUALITY IN FEDERAL FARM PROGRAMS

*Sign on as an Original Cosponsor of
The Equitable Agriculture Today for a Healthy America Act
(EAT Healthy Act)*

March 6, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Over the years, you have been a consistent supporter of our country's specialty crop industry. As such, we invite you sign on as an original cosponsor of the Equitable Agriculture Today for a Healthy America Act (EAT Healthy).

As you may know, specialty crops—including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and nursery products—are a critical part of our nation's agriculture industry, constituting nearly fifty percent of cash receipts. Specialty crops are produced in every U.S. state and their success has a considerable impact on local economies. We believe this important sector of American agriculture is deserving of full and equal consideration in the next Farm Bill through a significant investment of federal resources promoting their sustainability and competitiveness.

We have teamed up with leading specialty crop and environmental organizations from around the country to recognize specialty crops as a major contributor of our agriculture industry. Realizing a secure domestic food supply is imperative to national security, and that a globally competitive specialty crop industry is necessary for the production of an abundant, affordable supply of specialty crops, this legislation will increase market access, encourage and facilitate consumption of nutritious products, fund research programs and increase opportunities for family farmers in conservation programs.

More specifically, the EAT Healthy America Act focuses on the following issues:

Competitiveness: Increases access to valuable export markets by increasing the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops program and the Market Access Program and by raising the profile of specialty crops within USDA, USTR, and other key federal agencies. Expands the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to assist local growers with the specific investments they need to increase competitiveness.

Nutrition: Requires federal feeding programs, including the school lunch and school breakfast programs, to adhere to the 2005 USDA Dietary Guidelines. Expands the fruit and vegetable

snack program in schools across the nation and develops new nutrition promotion programs to assist producers in enhancing their markets.

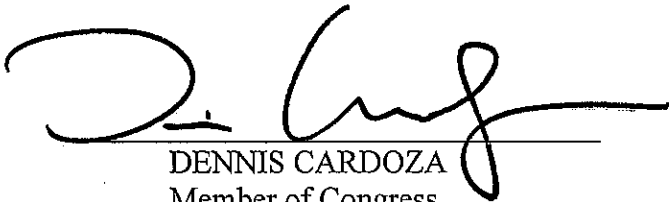
Research: Significant new investment in research priorities for specialty crops, through the National Research Initiative, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Agriculture Research Service (ARS). Increases research into the prevention of invasive plant pests and diseases.

Conservation: Increases opportunities for specialty crop producers to access conservation programs by recognizing the unique characteristics of their farming operations in formula allocations and funding priorities.

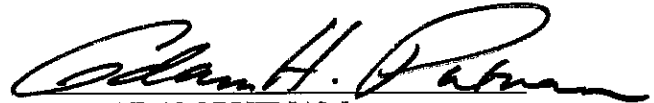
The specialty crop industry from across the nation has been diligently working alongside us in putting together this legislation. It is the right time and the right thing to do to help our nation's farmers succeed in order to preserve the future of American farming.

To sign on as an original cosponsor, feel free to contact Anne Cannon w/ Cardoza (5-6131).

Sincerely,




DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress



ADAM PUTNAM
Member of Congress



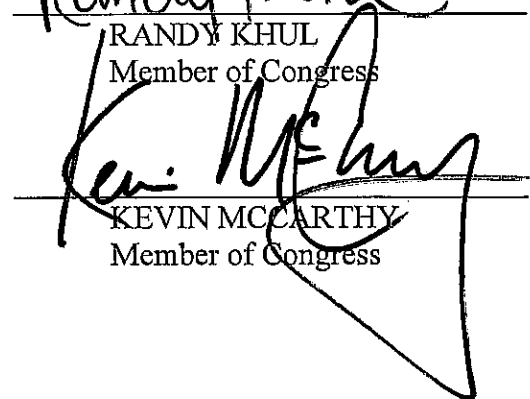
JOHN SALAZAR
Member of Congress



RANDY KUHUL
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



KEVIN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress