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United Fresh secures Congress members for festival

Published on 07/17/2009 12:17pm By Ashley Bentley
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Seven members of Congress plan to co-host the United Fresh Produce Association's Fresh Festival, the opening reception for the Washington Public Policy Conference.

This year's festival is scheduled for Sept. 9. Along with the co-hosts, other members of Congress, congressional staff, administration officials and friends of the produce industry are expected to attend the event, according to a news release. They will have the opportunity to discuss issues that affect the fresh produce industry while munching on fresh fruits and vegetables.

Congressional co-hosts for the event include:

- Sen. Tom Harkin (D, Iowa), chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutritional and Forestry;
- Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R, Ga.), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry;
- Rep. Collin Peterson (D, Minn.), chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture;
- Rep. Frank Lucas (R, Okla.), ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture;
- Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D, Mich.);
- Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D, Calif.) and;
- Rep. Adam Putnam, (R, Fla.).

After the Fresh Festival, attendees of the conference will be able to spend the next two days visiting more than 140 congressional offices, as well as participating in a town hall meeting with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Last year's event had more than 340 fresh produce industry attendees from 30 states.

Tags: [legislation](#), [United Fresh](#)

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Fresh Talk

Putting the party in bipartisan



Latest Slide Show

A standing-room-only crowd of 800-plus farmworkers, growers and environmentalists squeezed into an auditorium on the California State University-Fresno campus June 28 to hear how the Obama administration plans to address the state's ongoing water woes. Led by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, the delegation of federal officials unveiled plans for short-term and long-term efforts to resolve the California water problems.



Then, the latest chapter of California's ongoing water drama unfolded in a rally July 1 at Fresno City Hall. The rally, headlined by actor-comedian Paul Rodriguez, who has some fruit acreage and is president of the Latino Water Coalition, attracted a crowd estimated at 2,000. It included farm workers, growers and government





officials.

Read the full articles by Don Schrack: [Town hall meeting pleases few](#), [Water rally in Fresno](#)

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