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# Vilsack to address Washington Public Policy Conference

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Vilsack

Washington, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the United Fresh Produce Association's Washington Public Policy Conference.

United Fresh President Tom Stenzel said Vilsack has already built a resume as a supporter of fruits and vegetables. He said Vilsack has spoken out for increased fruit and vegetable consumption among students in his earlier role as governor of Iowa and now as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although Vilsack's scheduled as a keynote speaker, the time and date of his speech during the conference, Sept. 9-11, had not been determined as of July 20.

The Obama administration plays a key role in advancing fruit and vegetable consumption, Stenzel said, from the first lady's involvement in the White House garden to the implementation and expansion of federal feeding programs. Those programs include fruit and vegetable vouchers for participants in the Women, Infants and Children's program and nationwide expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for children, Stenzel said in a July 20 interview at the United Fresh offices.

In addition to Vilsack, others scheduled to appear at the Washington Public Policy Conference includes Sens. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich, and Reps. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., John Lucas, R-Okla., Adam Putnam, R-Fla., and Dennis Cardoza, D-Calif.

The conference, at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, features visits to more than 140 congressional offices and a private meeting with representatives of the Food and Drug Administration, according to a United Fresh news release.

For more information about this year's Fresh Festival on Capitol Hill, contact Angela Bezon at 202-303-3400, extension 416.

Tags: **United Fresh, USDA**

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