



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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Contact: Adam Terry
202-225-8490

ALEXANDER RELEASES FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING DR-CAFTA

CAFTA TO BENEFIT MAJORITY OF LOUISIANA FARM COMMODITIES, PORTS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today released the following statement concerning his vote in favor of DR-CAFTA, which passed the House late last night by a vote of 217-215.

Alexander, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said that he **"held out as long as possible in hopes that some deal would be reached that would help sugar farmers in Louisiana."**

"I will continue to work with Louisiana sugar farmers to help them out, but I voted for CAFTA because every other agriculture commodity in Louisiana stands to gain from this trade legislation. I have received overwhelming support from 5th District cotton, rice, soybean, cattle, and corn farmers. In addition, like U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, I see the benefits from the Port of New Orleans to the Ouachita Port coming as a result of CAFTA."

Specifically, Alexander was also asked by the following businesses in his district to vote for CAFTA: Proctor & Gamble (Rapides Parish); Smurfit-Stone Container Corp (Jackson Parish); and Tyco Plastics & Adhesives (Monroe), to name a few.

Alexander, who sits on the Appropriations Agriculture Sub Committee, said he will work to help sugar farmers when the 2007 farm bill negotiations begin.

"Right now, I'm working to see that some provisions are secured that will look toward using sugar as a substance to produce ethanol fuel," Alexander said.

"We know that the technology is there, and now it is up to us (members of congress) to see that we reduce our dependence on foreign petroleum products by using sugar and corn commodities to produce ethanol."

Alexander also agrees with President Bush's stance that helping to improve trade relations with Central American countries is important toward the advancement of democracy world-wide.

"President Bush has made a valid point when he stated that four of the six nations--the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua-- have helped us with military operations in Iraq," Alexander added.

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