

IKE SKELTON
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2504
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2876
website: www.house.gov/skelton

514-B N.W. SEVEN HIGHWAY
BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64014-2733
(816) 228-4242

1401 SOUTHWEST BLVD., SUITE 101
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109-2429
(573) 635-3499

219 NORTH ADAMS STREET
LEBANON, MO 65536-3000
(417) 532-7964

908 THOMPSON BLVD.
SEDALIA, MO 65301-4593
(660) 826-2675

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

April 27, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Recently, I reviewed your Statement of Administration Policy regarding H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act. As the Ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee and a representative of rural Missouri, I was extremely disappointed to learn of your threat to veto this legislation and urge you to reconsider your decision.

On March 16, 2006, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved H.R. 4939. The House bill would provide America's service members with critical funding to carry out their missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere and would assist American citizens whose lives were upended by last year's powerful storms.

The Senate is considering a similar emergency spending bill, which would also provide disaster relief to farmers who have experienced weather-related crop losses, loss of livestock, and damage to livestock feed supplies. Further, it would assist farmers who were overwhelmed by energy prices that have spiked in the months following last year's hurricanes.

Over the past two years, Missouri has experienced periods of extreme drought. In many areas of the state, soybean and corn crops were severely impacted, pastures were scorched, and pond waters evaporated.

The Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri estimated our state's 2005 production losses for corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, sorghum, rice, and hay at \$252 million, which does not include losses experienced by the livestock sector. Because of the severe weather, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns declared nearly all Missouri counties as primary agricultural disaster areas.

Farmers in Missouri and throughout America must not be ignored. That is why Congress, standing in the shoes of the American people, is moving to enact emergency legislation that will assist Show-Me State farmers and those producers from other disaster stricken parts of the country.

Since taking office, you have chosen to sign every appropriations bill submitted to you, including several emergency supplemental spending bills that were approved with broad bipartisan support. I am disappointed that you would issue a veto threat on such important emergency spending legislation, jeopardizing crucial military and agricultural relief as our troops face continued challenges and our farmers begin the 2006 crop year with financial uncertainty.

As the Congressional debate goes forward and we work to pass a final emergency supplemental spending bill, I respectfully encourage you to reconsider your threat to veto H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ike Skelton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress