



taking action in Congress...



Earlier this year, House Agriculture Chairman Bob Goodlatte named me Chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry. This important committee has jurisdiction over all operations of the USDA, as well as bio-fuels, dairy policy, farm bill implementation, the U.S. Forest Service and the food stamp program. Since becoming chairman, we have held numerous hearings and meetings on Capitol Hill and in Minnesota to talk about the dairy program, forestry, the food stamp program and other issues affecting the lives of southern Minnesotans each day.

Be sure to visit my web site at www.gil.house.gov as well as the House Agriculture Committee web site at agriculture.house.gov for up-to-date information and links to the committee's hearings.

Last year, Congress passed the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The new Farm Bill was the result of more than two years of work and dozens of hearings in rural communities throughout the country. We produced a bill that balances conservation, crops, nutrition, trade and rural development as part of the nation's comprehensive agricultural policy. This year we are working with USDA to ensure that the critical programs from this bill are quickly and correctly implemented.

Congressman Gutknecht discusses dairy issues with Amy Louise and Peter Gieseke, recently named owners of the 8th best dairy farm in America! This May, Gutknecht held his first subcommittee hearing on the future of the dairy industry.



We have made positive steps toward reducing the cross-border corn loan rate discrepancies. I am pleased to report that Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman is listening to Minnesota farmers.

"Reducing county crop loan rate discrepancies is a big win for folks who live on the Minnesota side of the border."

-Congressman Gil Gutknecht

Minnesota had been shorted in the amount of acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). As a result, I wrote to USDA stressing that the focus of CRP should be on environmentally sensitive land in southern Minnesota that had not been selected in the past because of our high land values. When USDA announced CRP enrollment, I was pleased to see 18,935 acres, or 71 percent, of the acres submitted in southern Minnesota were accepted.

I was also pleased to support the vital Lewis & Clark Water Project for southwestern Minnesota. Fortunately, the Administration heeded our call by restoring \$3.8 million for the project. This project will increase water supplies for southwestern Minnesota by bringing water from the Missouri River.



"America has waited long enough for a coherent energy policy. We have a lot of good folks throughout southern Minnesota who are using cutting edge technology to produce clean fuel sources, such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind."

-Congressman Gil Gutknecht

The House passed the Energy Policy Act of 2003 (HR 6). This bill recognizes the importance of renewable fuel sources – such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind – to our national security and to our rural economies. The bill requires a percentage of the nation's fuel supply comes from renewable energy sources.



The House also passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HR 1904) which aims to improve the way we care for our nation's forests. This legislation will enable sound forest management to prevent catastrophic fires, disease and insect infestation that threaten the long-term health of our forests.

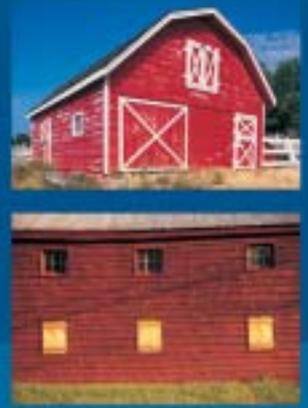
Congressman Gutknecht recently visited northern Minnesota to discuss forestry issues with Minnesota's forestry experts.

useful links

for you...

House Agriculture Committee
agriculture.house.gov
US Department of Agriculture
www.usda.gov

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
www.mda.state.mn.us
Minnesota Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov/mn
Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov
Minnesota Rural Development
www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
www.pca.state.mn.us



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Congressman Gil Gutknecht

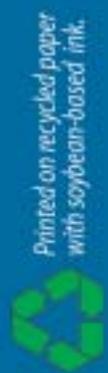
Southern Minnesota's Voice in Congress

Chairman, House Agriculture Subcommittee on Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry



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Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.



*"It's about the the land and those who work it. And it's about the kind of future we want to leave for our children."
-Congressman Gil Gutknecht*

First District, Minnesota
September 2003