LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Glenn Luedke
NAICC Legislative Assistant
The New Congress

THE PARTY MAJORITY HAS CHANGED

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIR/CO-CHAIR SWAPPED POSITIONS

NEW HOUSE AG COMMITTEE CHAIR IS COLIN PETERSON OF MINNESOTA. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS HOUSE AG COMMITTEE MINORITY LEADER.
Some Recent Comments In The Press Regarding Peterson:

A LONG TO-DO LIST INCLUDING OVERSIGHT OF TRADE AND FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION - THE AGRICULTURE PANEL ISN'T LIKELY TO SPEND MUCH TIME ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES
Some Recent Comments In The Press Regarding Peterson:

PETERTON KEEPS DISTANCE FROM DEMOCRAT CLIMATE AGENDA

CLIMATE CHANGE WAS LEFT OFF HOUSE AG DEMOCRATS' LIST OF POLICY PRIORITIES

HOUSE SPEAKER PELOSI CALLED CLIMATE CHANGE AN "EXISTENTIAL THREAT"
Some Recent Comments In The Press Regarding Peterson:

PETERSON: "WHAT IS OUR GOAL? PLANTING ALL THOSE TREES? I'M ACTUALLY CUTTING DOWN THE FOREST" HE TOLD REPORTERS LAST MONTH SHORTLY AFTER HE BEGAN LOGGING HIS OWN LAND
Major issues: Farm Bill Implementation

SETTLE SNAP ISSUES
(SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

SUPREME COURT DECISION REGARDING WHETHER SNAP CAN PUBLISH RETAIL SALES DATA
Major issues: Farm Bill Implementation

DETER THE LOBBYISTS WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE FARM BILL

OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF GETTING CITY/URBAN LEGISLATORS TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE
Major issues: Farm Bill Implementation

BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES AT THE STATE LEVEL: POLITICAL PARTY/BACKGROUND CHANGES, ETC.
Major issues: USDA

DISCLOSURE STANDARDS FOR BIO TECH FOOD LABELS IMPLEMENT BY JANUARY, 2020

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: EDUCATE THE CONSUMER

USDA/FDA: RELEASE MAJOR FOOD & NUTRITION GUIDELINES
Other issues:

LOOK FOR CHANGES AT THE STATE LEVEL REGARDING BACKGROUNDS OF STATE COMMISSIONERS OF AGRICULTURE

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: PESTICIDE REGULATIONS WERE WATERED DOWN IN THE FINAL FARM BILL CONFERENCE REPORT.
Other issues:

PRIA (PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT) THE CONFERENCE REPORT FAILED TO INCLUDE RE-AUTHORIZATION OF PRIA
WOTUS (WATERS OF THE U.S.)

ISSUES: DEFINITION OF A TRIBUTARY
CURRENT PROPOSAL STATES THAT ORDINARILY DRY
CHANNELS WHERE WATER FLOWS OCCASIONALLY
OR INTERMITTENTLY DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A
TRIBUTARY.
DEFINITION OF "PERENNIAL" OR "INTERMITTENT"
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: DRAMATIC RISE IN H-2A AG LABOR USE

F/Y 2008 - 86,014 H-2A POSITIONS
F/Y 2018 - 242,762 H-2A POSITIONS
CALIFORNIA: EMPLOYEES AT FARMING OPERATIONS WITH MORE THAN 26 EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE OVERTIME AFTER A 9.5 HOUR WORKDAY IN 2022, OVERTIME AFTER A 8.0 HOUR WORKDAY
Observations:

STATES WANT MORE BUY-IN IN DECISIONS REGARDING NUISANCE PESTS, PLANTS, ETC.

STATES WANT FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONSHIPS IMPROVED UPON REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES, ETC.
HUNDREDS OF "TRADE-AID" RECIPIENTS LIVE IN URBAN AREAS (1,142 OUT OF 87,700 PER THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP)

THE LOUISIANA INVINCIBLE FROG COURT CASE: ONE U.S. COURT TOLD ANOTHER U.S. COURT IT WAS SO WRONG IN ITS OPINION THAT THE OPINION IS BASICALLY WORTHLESS
WOOL LOVERS BLEAT ABOUT ACTIVISTS SHEAR MADNESS

A PETA BILLBOARD NEAR LINCOLN, NE PICTURED A HOLSTEIN COW WITH THE CAPTION "I'M ME" AND "COWS ARE INDIVIDUALS"
Headlines in the Media:

HARVARD AMASSES VINEYARDS AND WATER RIGHTS (THREE SQUARE MILES OF FLAT-BOTTOMED VALLEY)

BILL GATES LOVES FERTILIZER
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Glenn Luedke
NAICC Legislative Assistant