

Farmers Step Up Pressure

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The leader of one of the nation's major farm organizations blasted recent action taken by the House Ways and Means Committee and vowed to step up the fight to retain a major domestic market for farmers.

In a letter to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-GA), the president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Rod Gangwish denounced a provision in the proposed committee budget

reconciliation bill that eliminates tax incentives for ethanol production. The Nebraska farmer told Gingrich other energy industries do not share in the sacrifices required to balance the federal budget.

"The oil and gas industries enjoy the most elaborate tax treatment available," Gangwish said.

The farm leader cited several examples of apparent favoritism. For example, investors can write off passive losses from oil and gas investments but not from investments in other industries. Oil and gas

companies are also allowed to write off many of their capital costs immediately and may utilize the depletion allowance to recover capital investment costs more rapidly than other industries and avoid tax liabilities.

"Not one of the oil industry's extensive tax benefits and preferences is reduced under the Ways and Means Committee bill," Gangwish said. "Those benefits some in the oil industry enjoy have an effective tax rate of only 11 percent.



In addition they received \$2 billion in federal corporate income tax benefits each year and \$4 billion at the state and local level."

Gangwish strongly urged the House speaker to exercise his leadership and remove the provisions from the bill before final consideration by lawmakers.

"America's farmers, perhaps more than anyone, understand and appreciate the need to

reduce government spending and control the budget deficit," the farm leader said. "With the cuts agriculture has faced and will face, eliminating the ethanol industry, a key growth market for American farmers, makes absolutely no sense." Gangwish called the provisions, prepared by Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer (R-TX), "...unfair, disproportionate and unacceptable."

New Leaders Ready For New Year

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Fifteen farmer-leaders accepted new responsibilities recently as officers of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF).

Bill Northey, farmer from Spirit Lake, Iowa, serves as president of the NCGA. Other officers of the organization elected in August include Rod Gangwish, Shelton, Neb., chairman of the board; Wallie Hardie, Fairmount, N.D., vice president; Richard Plock, York, Neb., secretary; and Gary Krug, Bad Axe, Mich., treasurer.

Grower leaders serve as chairman of five committees. They include Ryland Utlaut, Grand Pass, Mo., chairman of government relations; Christine Bankson, Hordville, Neb., chairman of market develop-

ment; Russ Williams, Leaf River, Ill., chairman of research and commercialization; Richard Peterson, Mountain Lake, Minn., chairman of field services; and Jim Czub, Schaghticoke, N.Y., chairman of public relations.

Everett Nordine, a farmer from Albert City, Iowa, serves as president of the National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF). The NCDF supervises funding for research into new uses for corn, legislative and regulatory action, member education and communications. LaMoine Smith, a farmer from Minden, Neb., serves as NCDF chairman of the board. Other officers of the NCDF include Lynn Laible, Magnolia, Ill., vice president; Doug Foss, Morris, Ill., secretary; and Gene Fynboh, Brandon, Minn., treasurer.

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