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MGGA Pleased With Senate Committee Approval of 2012 Ag Reform Act

Great Falls – The Montana Grain Growers Association was pleased with U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee approval of the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012 today after debate and action on amendments to the original language submitted late last week. In shepherding the bill through the committee, Senator Max Baucus was instrumental in including several key priorities for Montana growers in a bill that also contributes \$23 billion toward reducing our nation's debt.

“Our producers told us their most important priority was to maintain crop insurance as a proven and effective safety net,” said MGGA Vice President Ryan McCormick, “and this bill not only does that, it includes improvements like increasing the transitional yield plug from 60% to 70%, making enterprise units permanent and decreasing program costs for beginning farmers.”

Although the bill eliminates familiar farm programs like direct payments, the counter-cyclical program, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) and Supplemental Revenue Assurance (SURE), it creates a new shallow-loss revenue program that will address multi-year price and yield declines, providing farmers with a safety net when they need it in times of farm revenue loss.

McCormick continued, “We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Senator Baucus, along with his ag legislative assistant Alexis Taylor, for the tremendous amount of work put into crafting this important piece of legislation. We believe it will be a very workable safety net for Montana producers developed in a very difficult budget situation.”

MGGA urges Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to schedule floor time as soon as possible in the hope that a bill can be passed out of the Senate and conferenced with a yet to be developed House bill before the current farm program legislation expires on September 30, 2012.

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