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The joint House-Senate Conference Report on the bill, officially titled the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR), passed 74-26.

"Oklahoma and other Western states have suffered a severe drought during the past six months," Nickles said. "Farmers told me that if Congress failed to enact this Farm Bill, many would be forced out of business. Congress had a responsibility to farmers in Oklahoma and every other agricultural state to enact a farm bill this week. I am pleased they did so."

The bill now goes to the President for signature.

INHOFE HAILS PASSAGE OF LINE ITEM VETO

From U.S. Senator James Inhofe, R-Oklahoma

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) Thursday hailed the Senate's passage of the Line Item Veto as an historic achievement which shows that the Republican Congress is keeping its promises to the American people. The Senate voted 69-31 late Wednesday to give future presidents the power to reject specific parts of large spending bills. The House is expected to pass the same bill today.

"Passing the line-item veto is an historic achievement," Inhofe said. "It will help us cut wasteful spending. But even more important, it will force accountability. Now, if the president signs a bill, he will be directly accountable for everything in it. And if he vetoes specific items, Congress will be forced to vote and be accountable on those items."

Under the line item veto bill passed Wednesday, a president will be able to reject specific items contained in large spending bills. Two-thirds votes in both houses of Congress would then be needed to reverse the action.

"This is a reform the people voted for in 1994 as part of the Contract With America," Inhofe said. "The Republican Congress is keeping its promises."



"May I have your attention ... I seemed to have misplaced my credit card ... is there a lobbyist in the House?"