

Three of every four dollars from this farm bill go towards nutrition programs, which could not come at a better time for American families. Even without the spike in food prices, millions of Americans are unable to afford a sufficient and healthy diet. Unfortunately, community food banks and our current nutrition programs have not been able to meet the growing burden from rising food costs. That is why this farm bill provides \$50 million immediately to address the shortfalls that food banks and food shelves are facing right now. It also increases funding for nutrition programs by more than \$10 billion. For the first time in 30 years individual benefits will be increased, and for the first time ever we will take the important step of indexing benefits to the cost of living. It is unacceptable that in the richest Nation in the world, so many go hungry—especially children. This legislation is a necessary step towards an America free from hunger.

The farm bill also increases our commitment to international nutrition programs in response to growing humanitarian crises. As global food prices continue to rise, the aid that the U.S. provides to the developing world becomes more critical than ever. I am proud that this farm bill does include an increase in mandatory funding for the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, but unfortunately it provides much less—nearly \$800 million less—than the House included in our version. There is a nationwide consensus that we need to do more to help feed hungry children around the world, and I will continue working to increase funding for the McGovern-Dole program.

Investing in conservation and domestic energy programs will benefit Minnesota and the entire country. With almost 8 billion in new conservation dollars, this conference report represents a shift towards sustainability in U.S. farm policy. These funds will be used to extend and expand a variety of programs that incentivize and provide technical assistance for farming practices that improve the quality of soil, water, and air on working lands. This legislation also represents a real commitment

to dealing with the energy crisis. With record oil prices and new information about corn-based ethanol, it is crucial that we invest in viable fuels for the future. That is why this farm bill provides a billion dollars for R&D of advanced biofuels and shifts incentives from corn-based ethanol to biofuels from feedstocks such as switchgrass and woodchips.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act modernizes and makes much needed reforms to the commodity payment system; by closing loopholes, eliminating payments to wealthy farmers, and capping direct payments, this bill cuts \$60 billion from the commodity programs. At the same time, this farm bill strengthens the safety net for farmers that protects them against price drops, droughts, floods and other disasters.

This farm bill is a bipartisan compromise that addresses our urgent needs and invests in our future. I urge my colleagues in joining me in supporting the conference report.

IN RECOGNITION OF TREADWAY
CREEK TRAIL IN OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of the Treadway Creek Trail in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

On Friday, May 16, 2008, I will join with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Ohio Senator Shirley Smith, and Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins for the grand opening of this important natural and historic link along Ohio's Towpath Trail which will connect Cleveland with Akron, Canton, New Philadelphia, and all points between. Other partners in this project include the Old Brooklyn Development Corporation, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing

Authority, the State of Ohio Clean Ohio Funds, Natural Resources Assistance Council of Cuyahoga County, the Ohio Canal Corridor, and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association. Treadway Creek is a natural tributary to the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood. With the opening of the Treadway Creek Trail, the people of Old Brooklyn and other neighborhoods nearby will have an important natural resource to enjoy and will ultimately have pedestrian and bicycle access to the Cuyahoga River and the Towpath Trail.

The Treadway Creek Trail restores and preserves for future generations 21 acres of natural open space in an urban section of the 10th District. This includes a prime riparian corridor and wooded ravine, acquired through donations and conservation easements. Restoration elements include erosion and water quality improvements, invasive species removal, and plantings of native grasses and woodland wildflowers. The Treadway Trail provides public access to the ravine and connects the developing Towpath Trail at lower Harvard Avenue by incorporating retaining walls planted with native species, interpretive and directional signage, scenic overlook areas, custom benches, and handcrafted timber railings. The Towpath Trail, which links our state's history, culture, nature, and geography along 110 miles between New Philadelphia and Cleveland, will ultimately connect Akron and Canton with Lake Erie at Whiskey Island. With our continued stewardship of Treadway Creek, Old Brooklyn and the Treadway Creek Trail will be an important linkage in this web of urban, suburban, and rural trails which connect the people of Northeast Ohio with their history, culture and natural resources.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the beauty of Treadway Creek and the will of the people of Northeastern Ohio to protect this important piece of nature for the people's continued enjoyment.