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THE MURPHY PLAN: Agriculture – The Industry that Provides for All of Us

Agriculture's value to every Hoosier is undeniable. It is an industry that provides the most basic of human needs, but it also generates jobs and economic opportunity, creates new sources of energy, offers new foods and products to improve human health, and depends on and protects our natural resources, among others.

With this tremendous responsibility also comes tremendous challenges for Hoosier farmers, their families and our agribusiness community. Today's new operating environment is marked with growing government regulation, an uncertain tax climate, intense international competition, and volatile market conditions. Our agricultural industry needs partners in Congress who understand the critical importance of its contributions and are willing to unapologetically play a leadership role in supporting policies that defend and enhance its future.

My priorities for agriculture all center around one basic tenant: farmers and agricultural business leaders require a conducive business and stable regulatory environment in order to survive and plan for the future. Many business, tax and regulatory uncertainties are swarming agriculture today. I commit not only to navigating agriculture through these new challenges in our nation's Capital, but more importantly to offer it a thriving and competitive environment full of opportunities to grow and expand.

In the **MURPHY PLAN** for Agriculture, I set out **4 priorities** to take to Washington that

are guided by my experience working for Hoosiers in the Indiana legislature.

Priority #1: Agriculture holds tremendous potential. I will ensure it continues to be a key part of our economic recovery and growth.

Perhaps in no other industry is the outlook for potential future economic growth as promising as in agriculture. The advent of an unbelievable number of new technologies and product applications offers tremendous opportunity. These new investments will come in the fields of biotechnology, alternative energy, information technology, food processing, livestock production and animal health and many others. And, they bring with them billions of dollars in new economic development and thousands of new jobs.

Global trade and investment opportunities for agriculture also are critical. Maintaining strong and positive working relationships with our customers in markets all around the world will ensure the continued purchase of millions of dollars of Indiana corn, soybeans, pork, poultry, dairy, fruit and vegetables, wine and hardwood/lumber products.

I will engage at the local, state and federal levels and also in the global arena to identify and seek out these emerging technologies and business opportunities with the intent of introducing them to the agricultural potential of our region.

Priority #2: Aggressive regulatory schemes threaten agriculture's competitive future. I will work to minimize and prevent their harmful effects on farmers and the broader industry.

Sadly, regulation today can be based more on political maneuvering than on sound scientific and economic analysis and review. The agriculture industry stands to lose more from this approach of regulatory decision-making than nearly any other industry.

A few examples of troubling regulatory issues for agriculture include the cap-and-trade with its far reaching impacts on the cost of farming and operating agribusinesses. We must also protect those in agriculture (especially livestock agriculture) who are coming under increasing pressure to eliminate or overhaul their well-proven and well-managed production practices. Activist animal welfare and fringe environmental groups who are "attacking" agriculture cannot be the voice defining future regulation.

I will promote a progressive view towards our current and future agricultural regulatory structure with a commitment to ensure science-based and well-implemented standards to support industry growth.

Priority #3: Agriculture must continue to protect and enhance our natural resource base – our land, water and air – for the benefit of all Hoosiers. I will support creative and necessary stewardship initiatives that offer both environmental benefits and value added opportunities for farmers.

I will seek every possible avenue for more Federal and State partnerships to support our conservation needs. This would include expansion of existing programs, such as the US Department of Agriculture cost-share Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) that offers a 5:1 federal match for Indiana conservation spending, as well as pursuit of new program opportunities. Indiana has woefully lagged other agricultural states in its conservation funding and that must change.

I will also work with the appropriate regulatory agencies and committees to further minimize and work smartly through environmental regulatory challenges for agriculture including the ongoing climate change debate, new requirements for air and water quality, pesticide applications, etc.

Priority #4: Agriculture still is a way of life for many Hoosiers. I will do all I can to ensure the quality of that lifestyle remains and is improved.

Families and businesses involved in Indiana agriculture deserve:

- Low taxes – an eliminated estate (or "death") tax and reduced capital gains and real estate and property taxes;
- Good health care solutions;
- Rural community prosperity and growth – access to broadband, wastewater, housing;
- Improved infrastructure – roads, rail; and
- Quality education.

I happen to believe that leadership, experience, and results still matter. As a former member of the Agriculture Committee of the Indiana House of Representatives and a voting member of the Indiana Farm Bureau, I understand the challenges and threats that face Indiana and American agriculture today. But, more importantly, I also have a vision of growth, opportunity and success for agriculture's future. I will do all I can to help Indiana farmers, their families, their rural communities and our agribusinesses to be a part of that vision.

Sincerely,



Mike Murphy, candidate for Indiana's 5th U.S. congressional seat

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