

**NATIONAL
POTATO
COUNCIL**

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conference Committee Retains Senate Amendment Supporting Potatoes in School Meals

Washington, D.C. (November 15, 2011)—The following statement is from John Keeling, Executive Vice President and CEO, National Potato Council (NPC), on the final conference report on the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture, Commerce/Justice/Science (CJS), and Transportation/Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill. The conference report retained the bipartisan Senate amendment sponsored by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Mark Udall (D-CO) and adopted by unanimous consent. The amendment prohibits the use of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to implement rules that would set maximum serving limits on vegetables in school meal programs.

“This is an important step for the school districts, parents and taxpayers who would shoulder the burden of USDA’s proposed \$6.8 billion school meal regulation that will not increase the delivery of key nutrients. The National Potato Council and our state and local partners appreciate the leadership of the conference committee in retaining the Collins-Udall amendment from the Senate agriculture appropriations bill. We hope to once again work with USDA to promote the nutritional and economic value of potatoes, which provide school food service professionals the flexibility they need to deliver healthy meals to students.”

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The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. Potato growers, along with the U.S. potato industry as whole, directly benefit from involvement in the National Potato Council. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level. The National Potato Council is a voluntary organization supported by quota assessments from state organizations, allied industry memberships and sponsorships, and directly by potato growers through membership dues.